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Voter registration drive at Kagman high. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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75¢

USCIS eyes lottery for CW permits

SPAYED AND NEUTERED

The Saipan Mayor's Office is offering low-cost spay and neutering services at the roundhouse next to the Sugar King Park. The process will be done by highly trained veterinarians from the Spay Neutering Network from Dallas Texas.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced yesterday it is going to weigh using a lottery system for the issuance of CW permits for fiscal year 2019.

The number of CW permits allowed in fiscal year 2019 is capped at 4,999.

Employers in the CNMI use the CW-1 program, officially called the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program, to employ foreign workers.

According to the federal agency, they would be accepting applications for CW petitions starting April 2, 2018, up to April 12, 2018.

This period would be used to determine if USCIS would use the lottery system or not. The lottery system is ostensibly to "ensure fairness to CNMI employers."

However, regardless of the system USICS chooses to use in issuing CW-1 permit applications, the federal agency made clear that it would be starting to receive applications

See USCIS on Page 4

Ex-DPS official eyes Saipan mayoralty

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho, a former Department of Public Safety assistant chief of police, wants to be the mayor of Saipan.

In an interview yesterday, Camacho said this will be his second time to run for the post. Camacho went head-to-head with current Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang at the last election and came second.

Camacho has served the community through his post at DPS as well as his three terms in the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council.

He is currently part of the Criminal Justice Advisory Council, the CNMI Parole Board chairman, and is president of the Saipan Farmers Association.

Camacho was tempted to

See EX-DPS on Page 4

Video show 3 stealing bags at T Galleria

A video clip taken from a surveillance camera at T Galleria in Garapan allegedly shows two women and a small boy stealing over $2,000 worth of handbags and wallets in different occasions.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Jacqueline Rae Shepard released the video clip on social media yesterday showing how the three suspects managed to shoplift merchandise from T Galleria.

Shepard said the first wom-

See VIDEO on Page 4

Sablan

'NMI failure to spend means less highway dollars'

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Transportation will not consider increased highway funds for the Marianas until the Commonwealth government spends what it already has.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and his Republican colleague from American Samoa, Amata Aumua Coleman Radewagen, jointly requested the department provide more road money for the Marianas and Samoa in a January letter. But earlier this month Transportation said no, due to millions in unspent funds held by their local governments.

"President Trump has been talking about infrastructure funding," Sablan said. "So, I wanted to be sure the Marianas gets its fair share. I invited Congresswoman Radewagen to join me in the let-

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The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter responds to a home fire in Chalan Kanoa.
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WORLD
Iraq has detained at least 19,000 people accused of connections to the Islamic State.
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There's still no official word on where Trump and Kim Jong Un will meet.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

PCF-Marianas welcomes 13 for fifth cohort

The Pacific Century Fellows-Marianas Chapter welcomed its fifth cycle of fellows in an opening retreat over the weekend, March 17-18, at the Kanoa Resort.

A total of 13 fellows from both the public and private sectors are in the 2018 roster of the Marianas chapter and they include Cody Ash (Bridge Capital LLC), Norman Del Rosario (IT&E), Christian Delos Santos (Marianas Visitors Authority), Maxine Laszlo (Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts), Katherine Mersai (William S. Reyes Elementary School), Ryan Meyerhoff (CNMI Law Revision Commission), Mark Rabago (*Saipan Tribune*), Charlie Rivera (Tropical Instant Press, Inc.), Melanie Santos (TakeCare Insurance), Jamika Taijeron (DFS Saipan Ltd.), Natashia Tomokane (IT&E), Joshua Wise (PHI Pharmacy), and Raymond Zapanta (Tan Siu Lin Foundation).

The fellows, who hurdled a selection process that included a panel interview, opened the weekend retreat last Saturday with a brief introduction from

See COHORT on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, 2018 Pacific Century Fellows-Marianas Chapter fellows Norman Del Rosario (IT&E), Mark Rabago (*Saipan Tribune*), Charlie Rivera (Tropical Instant Press, Inc.), Christian Delos Santos (Marianas Visitors Authority), Raymond Zapanta (Tan Siu Lin Foundation), Cody Ash (Bridge Capital LLC), Natashia Tomokane (IT&E), Joshua Wise (PHI Pharmacy), Katherine Mersai (William S. Reyes Elementary School), Maxine Laszlo (Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts), Jamika Taijeron (DFS Saipan Ltd.), Ryan Meyerhoff (CNMI Law Revision Commission), and Melanie Santos (TakeCare Insurance).

Detention hearing for David M. Sablan moved to Monday

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI gave lawyer Janet H. King more time yesterday to review documents for the detention hearing of her client, David Muña Sablan, who is facing charges related to two bags he left behind in Garapan that allegedly contained chemicals and items used in manufacturing crystal methamphetamine or "ice."

Sablan

The detention hearing was moved to Monday, March 26, at 1:30pm.

King, the court-appointed counsel for Sablan, informed the court that she has not seen the pretrial services report about Sablan. That report discussed Sablan's past criminal history and failure to appear.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said that moving the detention hearing would give King more time to not only review the report but also to obtain further information whether to challenge or submit separate evidence that would support her contention that Sablan should be released.

Sablan was in full restraints at the hearing. The need to place him on full restraint was not explained.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe appeared for the U.S. government.

The U.S. Marshal Service served the warrant of arrest on Sablan last Thursday, March 15, after the Drug Enforcement Administration filed a criminal complaint charging him with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

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Voter registration drive at Kagman high

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission will conduct a voter registration drive at the Kagman High School library in order to accommodate students who will be turning 18 years old before the Nov. 6 election.

CEC executive director Julita Villagomez said yesterday the voter registration drive will be from 11am to 3pm. It is being made at the request of a Kagman High School teacher.

The registration will also be open to the parents as well as other members of the community who want to register.

Villagomez said the registration will address the concerns that the CEC office in Susupe is far from Kagman and that most students have after-school programs.

"We're promoting our registration to increase the number of registered voters," she said, hinting that they are open to holding the same drive at other public and private high schools.

Villagomez asked the students and community to make sure to bring a copy of their birth certificate certified by the court, a valid U.S. passport, or naturalization documents to show proof of their citizenship.

CEC said a person is eligible to vote when he/she is 18 years old or older on Nov. 6, 2018, is domiciled in the CNMI, has resided in the CNMI for 120 days prior to the day of the election, is not serving a sentence for a felony conviction, has not been declared by a court to be judicially insane, and is either a citizen or national of the U.S, as defined in the NMI Constitution.

Previously registered voters who have failed to vote in the 2014 and 2016 general elections must re-register to be eligible to vote at the Nov. 6, 2018 election.

As of yesterday, she said, there are 16,696 registered voters in the CNMI, including 135 new ones this year.

Jeffrey's Beach red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged Jeffrey's Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from this beach contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

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Demapan looks forward to Murkowski visit

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Early next week, U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) will lead a congressional delegation to the CNMI at the invitation of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres—a visit that Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) is looking forward to.

That will be the senator's first visit to the CNMI.

"…As the principal author of the U.S. version of the NMI Workforce Act, it will be really beneficial for her and the members of her committee to experience firsthand what's on the ground and what exactly is the pulse of our community," he said.

Demapan pointed out that U.S. Congress is thousands of miles away from the CNMI, yet makes decisions that impacts the Commonwealth.

Murkowski's visit to the CNMI would give her that glimpse on the "true and real picture on the ground here," Demapan said.

Demapan was in Washington, D.C. early this year to support Torres and officers and members of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. at the U.S. Senate hearing on the bill to extend the foreign worker program in the CNMI by 10 years, to 2029.

"It was not my first time [in Washington, D.C.] as I have been going there. But in this particular trip, I was pleased to have meetings with different key officials of Congress, particularly with Rob Bishop, the chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction on the territories including the Commonwealth," he said.

"I was able to discuss with him things that need to be addressed right away in the Commonwealth and he was very receptive and very much willing to be a partner of the CNMI as we move along the process," he added.

Demapan is running against Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) as the Republican delegate candidate in the 2018 general elections. "Since I have made my announcement, I've been…having these discussions to find out how we can best improve our relationship with the federal government and how best we can improve the imposition of federal policies in the Commonwealth," he said.

EX-DPS

From Page 1

run again after hearing news, which turned out to be false, that Apatang will not be running for a second term. Apatang announced his candidacy in late 2017.

Camacho said his goal as mayor is to revive the Neighborhood Watch program and establish multiple other community programs that deal with beautification and preventing crime in neighborhoods.

Camacho believes the Neighborhood Watch program can lessen the crime rate in the CNMI.

During Camacho's time in the municipal council, he was deeply involved in establishing the Neighborhood Watch program in the CNMI, but it later fizzled out. If elected mayor, Camacho's first act is to revive the program. Other programs Camacho is hoping to establish is an adopt-a-place program, an after-school recreational program for students, and the backyard garden program.

All these programs deal with environmental cleanliness. The programs wouldn't just aid in island beautification but keep the community safe.

Camacho believes that if neighborhoods are maintained, there wouldn't be any places left for robbers, burglars, etc. to hide.

Camacho is running as an independent candidate and will be running against Apatang, a Republican candidate.

NMI

From Page 1

ter, because both our districts get less than we should based on any objective measure, such as population or road mileage."

Under the current funding formula, set in 1992, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands get 80 percent of federal highway funds. The Marianas and Samoa split the remaining 20 percent.

"This is not the first time we have tried to make the funding [fairer]," Sablan said. "Over the last 10 years, we have tried to work through the Obama administration and now the Trump administration. We have offered amendments on the floor of the House.

"Every time the answer is the same: you will not get more money if you are not spending what you already have."

According to the Department of Transportation, the CNMI is sitting on $5.8 million.

Guam has a backlog of zero. The U.S. Virgin Islands has used all but $561,065 of its highway funds.

The CNMI also has the slowest rate of spending. In her response letter to Sablan, acting administrator of the Federal Highway Administration Brandye Hendrickson said, the "CNMI has expended only 48 percent of its [Territorial Highway Program] funds since [fiscal year] 2006, as compared to [American Samoa], Guam, and [U.S. Virgin Islands], which had expenditure percentages of 89 percent, 78 percent, and 69 percent, respectively."

"Everyone knows our roads need work," Sablan said. "So, you would think the Commonwealth would be using every penny that Congress appropriates."

"I want to get more federal help. But the U.S. government will not give us more, if Commonwealth officials cannot keep up with Guam and other areas in spending what the Marianas has already received." ***(PR)***

USCIS

From Page 1

from April 2, 2018, onwards.

"Since USCIS expects to receive more petitions than the number of CW-1 visas available for [fiscal year] 2019, USCIS may conduct a lottery to randomly select petitions and associated beneficiaries so that the cap is not exceeded," the statement said. "The lottery would give employers the fairest opportunity to request workers, particularly with the possibility of mail delays from the CNMI."

USCIS might, according to the announcement, conduct the lottery with only the petitions received on the last day of the 10-day period before the 4,999 cap is met after the initial 10 days.

The USCISC statement said it would announce whether or not a lottery system would be used and when the cap is met.

'Hire as many US workers as you can'

A statement from the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the governor has long asked for a system providing "greater fairness to employers seeking a CW-1 permits."

"This request was in discussion during the 902 consultations and is a positive step forward to ensure all businesses are given a fair opportunity to compete for the limited available labor pool," said a statement from the administration, adding that Torres continues to talk with USCIS officials.

"The governor is proud of the work that leaders of our private sector and our small businesses have done toward hiring and training U.S. workers and encourages all employers to seek out and hire as many U.S. workers as they can," the statement said.

The statement pointed out that the need for workers is vital to maintain the viability of the CNMI economy, while adding that Torres remains appreciative of U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski's (R-AK) efforts on S. 2325.

S. 2325, or the U.S. Workforce Act, seeks to reset the CW cap for fiscal year 2019 to 13,000; provide an additional three years to the validity of work permits held by long-term CW workers; and extends the CNMI transitional period, along with programs under it such as the CW program and E-2C investor program, to fiscal year 2029. Effectively, S. 2325 extends the CW program for an additional 10 years.

"The governor appreciates the hard work of Sen. Murkowski, her committee, and her staff on the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act and looks forward to its passage and the continuation of the CNMI's growth and strength in the years to come as the provisions of her bill provide new and greater opportunities for our U.S. workers in our economy," said the statement.

Murkowski is set to visit the CNMI with a congressional delegation next week but the specifics have yet to be announced.

'Wrong decision'

In a separate statement, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said the 4,999 limit on CW permits for fiscal year 2019 and 2,999 for fiscal year 2020 is the "wrong decision" for the CNMI.

In a statement issued by his office in Washington, D.C., Sablan asked Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen M. Nielsen to set aside excess applications rather than rejecting them. Sablan described the cuts as "unnecessary."

"This would avoid the immediate economic harm, and give Congress time to send the U.S. Workforce Act [S.2325] to the President for signature into law," he said.

Sablan pointed out that the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act that he and Murkowski introduced would reset the fiscal year 2019 CW cap to 13,000, the same number the CNMI had in fiscal year 2017.

"The Trump administration is taking a different approach, even though the U.S. Workforce Act, which was written by a bicameral and bipartisan working group, is moving forward in Congress.

"The U.S. Workforce Act contains incentives to bring more U.S. workers into the labor force and significant protections for U.S. workers, policies the Trump administration should support.

"But those U.S. workers are now at risk of losing their jobs, because by cutting the CW workforce in half—from the [fiscal year] 2018 cap of 9,999 to 4,999 in fiscal year] 2019—the Trump administration will cause the Marianas economy to shrink.

"During the time the U.S. Workforce Act was under development and after introduction I have communicated with the Secretary of Homeland Security, recommending that it would be pointless to harm the Marianas by cutting the 2019 cap to 4,999, when there was increasing likelihood the cap could be reset by law to 13,000.

"I regret that the decision was made to go ahead with what may be an entirely unnecessary cut. I appeal, once again, to the Secretary, at least, to hold excess applications rather than rejecting them. This would avoid the immediate economic harm, and give Congress time to send the U.S. Workforce Act to the President for signature into law."

VIDEO

From Page 1

an stole a Louis Vuitton bag from a display on Nov. 28, 2017.

The same woman returned last Feb. 16, this time with another woman who had two small children.

The second woman used the older boy as her accomplice. The older boy grabbed a bag from the display rack and headed toward the door. The second woman also stole a bag, Shepard said.

The boy and the second woman stole a Burberry and MCM bags.

Last March 6, the two women allegedly returned to T Galleria, took two wallets, and casually walked away.

Shepard urged the public to provide DPS and Crime Stoppers with information about the suspects. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COHORT

From Page 2

Alex Sablan, PCF-Marianas Chapter vice chairman.

Sablan talked about what is required of the fellows during the nine-month program, which includes off-island trips to Hawaii and Guam.

PCF-Marianas Chapter chair Jerry Tan also explained why he established the PCF-Marianas Chapter in 2014.

"Success of a country, a community, a company, a family, and even a sports team is always a result of having 'strong leadership.' Thus, the primary objective and mission of Pacific Century Fellows is to groom our young professionals to become future leaders of the CNMI," he said.

Mufi Hannemann, former mayor of Honolulu and founder of Pacific Century Fellows of Hawaii, the program where PCF-Marianas was modeled after, also gave a presentation on "Mufi's Maxims"—a set of ideals and everyday practices he applied in his responsibilities as mayor of Honolulu—and leadership tenets.

Hannemann said he's proud of how PCF-Marianas has grown since 2014.

"It is extremely gratifying for me to witness the growth and development of the Pacific Century Fellows program in the Marianas. To see so many of the graduates of the last four classes go beyond their fellowship year and become contributing and productive members of the Commonwealth is a great indication of things to come in the future. Like our PCF experience in Hawaii where the program started, it has surpassed the expectations I had when we first embarked on this venture," he said.

The PCF founder also had good words to say about the 2018 batch of fellows and wished them good luck for the next nine months.

"This latest PCF class of 2018 promises to be another outstanding group of talented young leaders. I was impressed with the desire, energy, and ideas that they brought forth at their opening retreat. Hats off to Jerry Tan and his hardworking staff for their excellent work in support of the PCF-Marianas Chapter," he added.

The weekend retreat continued in the afternoon with the fellows selecting the topics for their once-a-month, whole-day sessions.

The topics selected were CNMI Government (April), Tourism and Gaming (May), Healthcare and Humanitarian Services (June), Infrastructure and Environment (August), Protecting our Homeland (September), and Education and Workforce Development (October). The fellows will go to Guam in July and Hawaii in November.

After dinner at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Mai Restaurant, the fellows moseyed down to SandCastle Saipan where they were mesmerized by the Las Vegas-style magic show of illusionist Leon Etienne.

The second and last day of the retreat on Sunday had the 13 fellows motoring up to the island's highest peak—Mount Tapochao—via a rough-and-tumble ride aboard Razrs UTVs courtesy of Let's Go Tour Company.

The weekend retreat actually kicked off a day earlier on Friday with mixer at the Nami Lounge of Kanoa Resort that was attended by the 2018 fellows and some of the 58 members of the PCF-Marianas Chapter alumni.

During the event, Waikiki Improvement Association president Rick Egged talked about how community involvement helped make Waikiki one of the most popular travel and leisure destinations in the world. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

USCIS suspends premium processing for some H-1B petitions

Starting April 2, 2018, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will begin accepting H-1B petitions subject to the fiscal year 2019 cap.

It will temporarily suspend premium processing for all fiscal year 2019 cap-subject petitions, including petitions seeking an exemption for individuals with a U.S. master's degree or higher.

This suspension is expected to last until Sept. 10, 2018.

During this time, USCIS will continue to accept premium processing requests for H-1B petitions that are not subject to the fiscal year 2019 cap.

"We will notify the public before resuming premium processing for cap-subject H-1B petitions or making any other premium processing updates," USCIS said in a statement yesterday.

During this temporary suspension, USCIS will reject any Form I-907, Request for Premium Processing Service, filed with a fiscal year 2019 cap-subject H-1B petition.

If a petitioner submits one combined check for the fees for Form I-907 and Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker, both forms will be rejected.

"When we resume premium processing, petitioners may file a Form I-907 for FY 2019 cap-subject H-1B petitions that remain pending," the statement said.

Expedited processing

While premium processing is suspended, a petitioner may submit a request to expedite a fiscal year 2019 cap-subject H-1B petition if it meets the criteria on the Expedite Criteria webpage.

It is the petitioner's responsibility to demonstrate that they meet at least one of the expedite criteria, and we encourage petitioners to submit documentary evidence to support their expedite request.

We review all expedite requests on a case-by-case basis and will grant requests at the discretion of USCIS office leadership.

Why

USCIS is temporarily suspending premium processing for these petitions to help us reduce overall H-1B processing times. By temporarily suspending premium processing, we will be able to:

- Process long-pending petitions, which we have currently been unable to process due to the high volume of incoming petitions and the significant surge in premium processing requests over the past few years; and
- Prioritize adjudication of H-1B extension of status cases that are nearing the 240 day mark.

We encourage H-1B petitioners to subscribe to email updates on the H-1B FY 2019 Cap Season webpage. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Islandwide cleanup on April 20

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be joining the 2018 Environmental Awareness Month Islandwide Cleanup on Friday, April 20, from 3pm to 4:30pm and Saturday, April 21, from 8am to 10am. If you would like to volunteer, contact the BECQ no later than April 18, 2018, at 4pm. For more information about volunteering, contact Jose Kaipat at 664-8500/1. ***(PR)***

Women's summit next week

The CNMI Women's Association and Women's Affairs Office is set to hold a two-day Women's Summit at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. Themed "Press For [Continued] Progress," the summit will be on March 26 and March 27, from 7:30am to 4pm on both days. Registration ends today, March 21, 2018. You may call 233-9411 or email commonwealthwomenassociation@gmail.com to register. Registration forms can also be accessed online at https://www.facebook.com/cnmiwomen/ or in-person at the Garapan Community Development Center. ***(PR)***

JKPL open on Friday, closed on Saturday

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be open on Friday, March 23, from 10am to 6pm. JKPL will close on Saturday, March 24, in observance of Commonwealth Covenant Day. For more information, call (670) 235-7323 (READ). Visit @joeten kiyu on facebook and our website at www.cnmilib.org for the latest. ***(PR)***

Kagman church to host free breakfast

Kagman Community Church in Kagman III will be having a free community breakfast this Saturday, March 24, from 9am to 9:30am and a clothing/slipper giveaway from after breakfast, 11am. Please bring a bag or box to take clothes and slippers home with you. All are welcome! ***(PR)***

Military training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 from 10am of March 22 to 10am of March 23. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use. ***(PR)***

RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS

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IT&E would like to remind its customers that all current and outstanding billing of accounts are due on or before **Thursday March 22, 2018.** Payment not received by close of business on **Thursday March 22, 2018** will result in temporary suspension of all services after 6 p.m.

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*Terms & conditions apply. 24 month contract required on the $80 Plan. Available in store and online. Online is for new activations only. 15% off exclusive to online purchases from March 15 to April 15, 2018 only. Credit check or additional security deposit may be required. While supplies last. See stores for details.

Marianas named most popular island at GITF

This month the Marianas Visitors Authority joined hands with Dynasty Holiday, Century Tours and Shenzhen Professional International Travel Service to participate in 2018 Guangzhou International Travel Fair.

The fair attracted 37,334 attendees, 20 percent more than in 2017. Also, 1,029 exhibitors from 53 countries and regions joined the event, which was held on March 1-3, 2018, at China Import & Export Fair Complex in Guangzhou.

"At GITF, the MVA took advantage of this opportunity to meet with the 800-plus hosted buyers and tens of thousands of consumers in attendance," said MVA marketing manager Broc Calvo. "In addition, we marked the formal launch in China of our 'My Marianas' and 'Paradise for Everyone' promotional slogans, inviting visitors to fully explore the unique and dynamic rhythms of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota."

The theme "Paradise for Everyone," which was first launched in Korea, aims to develop a personal emotional connection for visitors to the Marianas. It has eight different themes, including ocean, sports, family, wedding & honeymoon, culture, food, driving and eco-tour. The slogan provides the general brand direction for all MVA marketing events in 2018 in China and will be used to create social buzz, applied to all collaterals, and followed by all partners in coming promotions.

In order to further enhance the visa-free entry efficiency for Chinese visitors to the Marianas, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection recently released the electronic version of I-736 form. For those who enjoy visa-free entry to the Marianas, simply fill the online I-736 electronic form and print it and submit it to Customs officials upon arrival. Visitors with a valid U.S. travel visa need not fill in the I-736 electronic form. Simply complete the registration of the EVUS electronic visa online before departure, and you will be able to enter the country quickly.

Chinese tourists can fly directly to Saipan from five cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, and Hong Kong. In addition, nearly 30 other cities in the country have opened inter-connecting flights to Saipan through these major cities. ***(MVA)***

The Marianas Visitors Authority promotes Saipan, Tinian, and Rota at the Guangzhou International Travel Fair on March. 1-3, 2018. Over 39,000 consumers attended the event.
MVA

In early March, Marianas Visitors Authority China officially launched the new MVA brand slogan "My Marianas" during 2018 Guangzhou International Travel Fair. MVA

The Marianas is awarded "The Most Popular Island Award" at 2018 Guangzhou International Travel Fair Buyer Night on Mar. 1, 2018, in China. MVA Guangzhou marketing manager Ben Liu, far right, accepts the award on behalf of the MVA. MVA

Veterans, military service members, their families, and friends are invited to —

The 2nd Northern Marianas Veterans Resource Fair 2018

hosted by

Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

ROTA- April 4th, 2018, Mayor's Conference Hall, 9:30am - 12:30pm
SAIPAN- April 5th, 2018, Multipurpose Center, 5:30pm -8:30pm
TINIAN- April 6th, 2018, Tinian Library, 2:30pm – 5:30pm

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Contact your congressional office at 323-2647 (Saipan), 433-2647 (Tinian), or 532-2647 (Rota) or email kilili@mail.house.gov for more information.

ARC gives safety tips to prevent home fires

Beverly Camacho and Claudine Atalig, both volunteers of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, responded to a home fire on Anita Avenue in Chalan Kanoa early Tuesday morning.

The Red Cross provided immediate emergency needs for food clothing and shelter.

In total, five families (comprising 18 individuals) were assisted by the American Red Cross, including the occupants of the dwellings that were destroyed by the fire, as well as residents near the incident who were unable to remain in their homes due to toxic smoke in the area.

"We're deeply saddened for those who were impacted by these fires," said J.D. Tenorio, the Emergency Services director for the NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross. "As we continue to help them, we urge everyone to take steps to minimize the risk of a fire occurring in their home."

Home fire campaign

Seven times a day someone in this country dies in a fire. The Red Cross has been working to reduce that number through its Home Fire Campaign, a multi-year effort to reduce the number of home fire deaths and injuries by 25 percent. Launched in October of 2014, the campaign has already saved many lives and installed hundreds of thousands of smoke alarms in nearly 10,000 cities and towns.

Here in the CNMI, the Red Cross has installed nearly 500 smoke alarms throughout Saipan, Tinian, and Rota since October of 2017. The Red Cross will continue its efforts throughout this year visiting neighborhoods and installing more smoke alarms on all three the islands.

Simple steps to save lives

The Red Cross is calling on everyone to take two simple steps that can save lives: practice fire drills at home and check existing smoke alarms.

There are several things families and individuals can do to increase their chances of surviving a fire:

■ If someone doesn't have smoke alarms, install them. At a minimum, put one on every level of the home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Local building codes vary and there may be additional requirements where someone lives.

■ If someone does have alarms, test them today. If they don't work, replace them.

■ Make sure that everyone in the family knows how to get out of every room and how to get out of the home in less than two minutes.

■ Practice the fire escape plan. What's the household's escape time?

Red Cross apps

People can download the all-inclusive Red Cross Emergency app, which combines more than 35 emergency alerts to help keep the user safe.

And there is a special mobile app—Monster Guard—designed for children, teaching them to prepare for emergencies at home by playing an engaging game. Users can find the apps in smartphone app stores by searching for the American Red Cross or going to redcross.org/apps.

What people can do

People can visit redcross.org/homefires to find out more about how to protect themselves and their loved homes from fire.

They can become a Red Cross volunteer by contacting the local chapter office at (670) 234-3459 or by visiting our website at www.redcross.org/nmi.

They can also help by donating to Red Cross disaster relief by visiting redcross.org. Donations to disaster relief will be used to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from disasters big and small.

We respond to nearly 64,000 other disasters every year and most of these are home fires. ***(ARC)***

A two-story house located along Anita Avenue in Chalan Kanoa was completely destroyed after the fire. Wilfredo "Boy" Ching and his family have been staying the house for 18 years.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Terminated PSS exec asks court to allow her suit to proceed

Former education commissioner Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero has asked the federal court to allow her lawsuit against the Board of Education and its members to proceed to trial.

In Deleon Guerrero's opposition to a motion to dismiss her lawsuit, her lawyer, Brien Sers Nicholas, said that, although her contract with BOE allowed for termination "without cause," she was let go because she would not go along with the illegal demands of the board and its members.

Nicholas said that Deleon Guerrero also accused the board of retaliation and not affording her any notice and an opportunity to be heard.

The lawyer said the BOE and its members argue for the dismissal of the case by focusing only on Deleon Guerrero's claim for lack of notice and an opportunity, all the while forgetting Deleon Guerrero's other allegations that her termination was "for cause."

Deleon Guerrero is suing the BOE and its members for terminating her as the PSS commissioner last October. She is also suing the board members in their individual capacities.

She is demanding $350,000 in damages. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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3 You must be enrolled in FHB Online and have a mobile device with internet to use FHB Mobile Banking. Device must have a rear-facing camera with autofocus to use Mobile Deposit. See FAQs in the "Mobile Deposit" section of fhb.com/mobile for Mobile Deposit eligibility requirements. Checks deposited via Mobile Deposit are treated as deposits by mail for funds availability purposes. See Terms and Conditions of FHB Online services for full details. Text banking not available in Guam or CNMI.
4 The benefits mentioned above are only offered on or with a Complete Checking Debit Mastercard ("Debit Card"), which you can only have if you open a Complete Checking Account. Additional restrictions apply. The benefit include cellphone or other types of insurance that require use of the Debit Card. Registration at www.fhb.com/completedebit is required for certain benefits (credit score, credit monitoring & activity alerts, additional ID monitoring and ID theft – family coverage, etc.). First Hawaiian Bank and Mastercard reserve the right to cancel or change the benefits at any time without prior notice. If your Complete Checking Account and/or Debit Card is cancelled or closed for any reason, access to the benefits may be terminated at any time without notice. Please review your Guide to Benefits at www.fhb.com/completedebit for detailed information.

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CNMI gets $2M for conservation

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of the Interior released yesterday $2,501,621 in funding to the Northern Mariana Islands to support critical state conservation and outdoor recreation projects.

This is part of $1.1 billion in annual national funding going to state wildlife agencies from revenues generated by the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration acts.

As part of this funding distribution, American Samoa will get $2.5 million, Puerto Rico will get $6,971,438, Guam will get $2,501,621, the U.S. Virgin Islands will get $2,501,621, and Hawaii will get $8,304,999,

To date, more than $20.2 billion in funds, which are authorized by Congress, have been distributed to U.S. states and territories.

Northern Mariana Islands apportionments include $1,173,058 in Sport Fish Restoration funds and $1,328,563 in Wildlife Restoration funds.

American Samoa apportionments include $1,173,058 in Sport Fish Restoration funds and $1,328,563 in Wildlife Restoration funds.

Puerto Rico apportionments include $3,519,175 in Sport Fish Restoration funds and $3,452,263 in Wildlife Restoration funds.

The U.S. Virgin Islands apportionments include $1,173,058 in Sport Fish Restoration funds and $1,328,563 in Wildlife Restoration funds.

Guam apportionments include $1,173,058 in Sport Fish Restoration funds and $1,328,563 in Wildlife Restoration funds.

Hawaii apportionments include $3,519,175 in Sport Fish Restoration funds and $4,785,824 in Wildlife Restoration funds.

Zinke

"Northern Mariana Islands sportsmen and women are some of our best conservationists and they contribute billions of dollars toward wildlife conservation and sportsmen access every year through the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts," said Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. "For nearly eighty years, states have been able to fund important conservation initiatives thanks to the more than $20 billion that has generated nationwide. Every time a firearm, fishing pole, hook, bullet, motor boat or boat fuel is sold, part of that cost goes to fund conservation. The best way to increase funding for conservation and sportsmen access is to increase the number of hunters and anglers in our woods and waters. The American conservation model has been replicated all over the world because it works."

In a separate statement, Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) said: "We have a responsibility to care for and preserve our natural resources and these federal funds will help Guam agencies do just that. I am pleased that Secretary Zinke released $2.5 million in congressionally authorized funds for support conservation and outdoor recreation projects on our island. As Guam's representative in Congress, I continue working to secure additional federal investment in Guam to benefit our community and island. I look forward to GovGuam putting these federal funds to good use."

Zinke announced the release of the funds during his trip to Horicon, Wisconsin, where he presented a ceremonial check to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for $34,966,603 while visiting the Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area.

Allocations of the funds are authorized by Congress.

The funds, which are distributed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are derived from excise taxes paid by the hunting, shooting, boating and angling industries on firearms, bows and ammunition and sport fishing tackle, some boat engines, and small engine fuel.

"Revenues generated by the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration acts provides funding to states to protect and conserve our nation's fish and wildlife heritage today and for generations to come," said Virgil Moore, president of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Director of Idaho Fish and Game. "This funding mechanism serves as the foundation for fish and wildlife conservation in our country."

Nationwide, the recipient state wildlife agencies have matched these funds with approximately $6.7 billion throughout the years, primarily through hunting and fishing license revenues.

For more information about the WSFR program visit_http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-DOF/SOF-065

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 09, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS "F" MID-SIZE PICK-UP TRUCKS, 4X4, FOUR-DOORS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISION OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ LARRISA C. LARSON
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB18-CCC-071 (A-C)

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 29, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TEN (10)12K BTU UNITS (A), ONE (1) 24K BTU UNIT (B), AND TWO (2) 36K BTU UNITS (C) DUCTLESS SPLIT-TYPE AIR-CONDITIONERS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EDWARD C. DELEON GUERRERO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CCC

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Geotesting, Inc. has openings for:

Two (2) Soils/Materials Technician Supervisors
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree Engineering (may be foreign equivalent) and two years experience as a Soils/Materials Technician Supervisor, Assistant Soils/ Materials Technician Supervisor, Assistant Materials Supervisor or Soils/Materials Engineer.
Duties: Reviews requirements of new projects and assists in preparation of proposals for clients based on the project requirements, scope of site and subsurface explorations and laboratory testing requirements. Logs subsurface soils and rocks in test borings for engineering purposes. Visits project sites and evaluate surface and probable subsurface soil and rock conditions, and other data. Supervises soils/materials technicians in performing laboratory and field testing on soils, concrete, aggregates, bituminous mixtures, and other related materials. Summarizes and prepares reports of the laboratory and field testing data.

One (1) Soils/Materials Technician
Minimum Qualifications: Associates degree in Engineering (may be foreign educational equivalent) and one year experience as a Soils/Materials Technician or two (2) years experience as a Soils/Materials Technician or Assistant Soils/Materials Technician.
Duties: Performs laboratory and field testing on soils, concrete, aggregates, bituminous mixtures, and other related materials. Tests will include, but are not limited to, grain size analysis, compaction, liquid limit and plasticity index, bearing ratio, specific gravity, sand equivalent, and concrete compressive and tensile strength testing. Assists in performing test borings and obtaining subsurface soil samples. Observes excavation and back filling. Performs tests for design mix for concrete and bituminous mixes. Assists in performing infiltration tests in the soils. Performs field samplings of soils, concrete and bituminous mixtures.

One (1) Assistant Soils/Materials Technician
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree in Engineering (may be foreign educational equivalent) and three (3) months experience as a Soils/Materials Technician.
Duties: Assists in performing laboratory and field testing on soils, concrete, aggregates, bituminous mixtures, and other related materials. Tests will include, but are not limited to, grain size analysis, compaction, liquid limit and plasticity index, bearing ratio, specific gravity, sand equivalent, and concrete compressive strength testing. Assists in performing test borings and obtaining subsurface soil samples. Observes excavation and back filling. Assists in performing tests for design mix for concrete and bituminous mixes. Assists in performing infiltration tests in the soils. Assists in field samplings of soils, concrete and bituminous mixtures.

One (1) Assistant Soils/Materials Technician
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree (any field and may be foreign educational equivalent) and six (6) months of experience in assisting with performing laboratory and field testing of soils, concrete, and other related materials.
Duties: Assists in performing laboratory and field testing on soils, concrete, aggregates, bituminous mixtures, and other related materials. Tests will include, but are not limited to, grain size analysis, compaction, liquid limit and plasticity index, bearing ratio, specific gravity, sand equivalent, and concrete compressive strength testing. Assists in performing test borings and obtaining subsurface soil samples. Observes excavation and back filling. Assists in performing tests for design mix for concrete and bituminous mixes. Assists in performing infiltration tests in the soils. Assists in field samplings of soils, concrete and bituminous mixtures.

One (1) Accountant
Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Accounting (may be foreign educational equivalent), four years experience as an accountant; one year internal audit experience; must have an extensive knowledge in all accounting cycle; must be knowledgeable in Peach Tree and QuickBooks operations, and must know basic operations and procedures for geotechnical engineering and construction material testing.
Duties: Prepares financial statement, Gross Receipts Tax returns, invoices and statement of accounts, billings, renewal of company's licenses, communicates with various government agencies regarding business operations, and responsible for communicating with the Head Office regarding operations in Saipan Office. Prepare payroll and employer's withholding taxes, remits FICA taxes, prepares cash flow statement, bank reconciliation, and responsible for the accuracy of accounting entries and other duties as assigned.

If interested, send resume to Geotesting, Inc. by email to geotesting@geoguam.com or by fax at 670-235-5000. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within one week of acceptance to hire.

Islam appeals to 9th Circuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mohammed Rafiqul Islam is appealing to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit his sentence after being convicted of bringing Bangladeshi men to Saipan on promises of jobs and green cards in exchange for cash.

Islam, through counsel Bruce Berline, notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI about his appeal. He wants the Ninth Circuit to reverse the district court's judgment last Friday.

The notice did not indicate Islam's grounds for the appeal.

Berline earlier said that an appeal is automatic.

Last March 9, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge John C. Coughenour sentenced Islam and co-defendants David Trung Quoc Phan and Muksedur Rahman.

Coughenour sentenced Islam to 18 months imprisonment, to be followed by three years of supervised release.

The judge ordered Islam to pay $400 in special assessment fee.

Islam was ordered to pay with Rahman $188,426 in restitution to the victims in this case.

Rahman was sentenced to 48 months imprisonment, to be followed by three years of supervised release.

Phan was sentenced to eight months imprisonment, to be followed by two years of supervised release.

Assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto had recommended a 30-month imprisonment or two years and six months for Phan, 120 months or 10 years imprisonment for Rahman, and 37 months or three years and one month for Islam.

Last Oct. 18, the jury found Phan guilty of two counts of mail fraud, three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting, and one count of fraud and misuse of visas and permits.

Rahman was found guilty of two counts of mail fraud and three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting.

Islam was found guilty of one count of mail fraud and three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting.

Phan's fiancée, Analyn Nunez, and Rahman's wife, Shahinur Akter, were acquitted. Defendant Zeaur Rahman Dalu pleaded guilty.

According to the U.S. government, each of the victims paid over $10,000, but when they arrived on Saipan in April of 2016, they were not given work as promised.

The government named five victims, all Bangladeshis, in the case.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
ADDENDUM NO.1
ITB NO.: ITB18-COTA/FTA-070

"PURCHASE OF THREE (3) MEDIUM DUTY LOW FLOOR ADA ACCESSIBLE TRANSIT BUS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

MARCH 21, 2018

THIS ADDENDUM IS ISSUED TO AMEND THE TITLE OF THE INVITATION TO BID AND ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF THE BID THAT STATES THE TERMS LISTED BELOW:

- PURCHASE OF THREE (3) MEDIUM DUTY **TO DELETE THE TERMS "LOW FLOOR"** ADA ACCESSIBLE TRANSIT BUS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY.
- IN THE **SPECIFICATIONS AND ACCESSORIES** – SPECIFICATIONS FOR 22-SEAT ADA **TO DELETE THE TERMS "LOW FLOOR"** BUS WITH TWO (2) WHEEL CHAIR POSITIONS.

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
AMENDED
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-COTA/FTA-070

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 16, 2018 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF THREE (3) MEDIUM DUTY ADA ACCESSIBLE TRANSIT BUS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER MARCH 15, 2018 AT COTA, OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, 2ND FLOOR SUITE 216 MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, NAURU LOOP, SUSUPE, SAIPAN.

THIS IS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
S/A FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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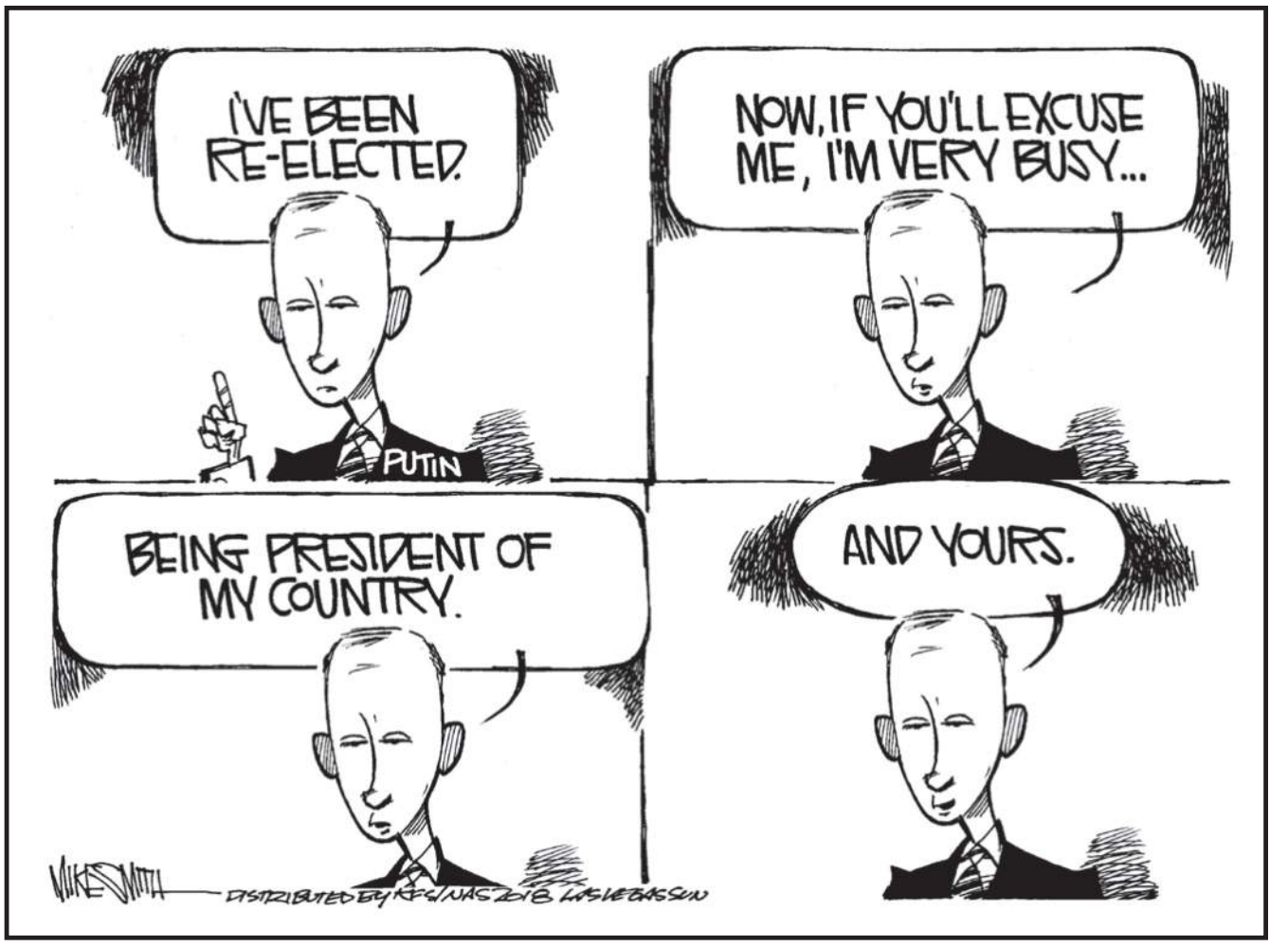
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EDITORIAL

Facebook is not your friend. It is an information parasite

The social media giant Facebook has wiggled its way, like a parasitic worm, into Americans' daily lives. We all clicked to approve the user agreement. We all allowed this to happen. Ultimately, it's our responsibility to tell Facebook and others to butt out of our lives.

Every time users check Facebook to laugh at a dog video, see what old friends are up to, or comment on someone's political rant, they help build the site's marketing empire. Nobody forced users to share this information.

Facebook is watching and collecting valuable data on our habits, lifestyles, restaurant choices, political leanings and consumer preferences—all so it can be sold for profit. This massive data trove is how Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg became one of the world's top billionaires.

Now Facebook must answer questions about how a private company, Cambridge Analytica, was able to cull information from more than 50 million users to help Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign. Facebook must own up to its nefarious practices, but users also bear responsibility for letting themselves be lulled into thinking that the app is just a bunch of friends keeping in touch online.

Facebook, Google, Instagram, Twitter and other major social media apps are not our friends. Their goal is to coax you into giving up your privacy. They turn your personal information into data that can be bundled with that of other users to sell to advertisers or others willing to pay the price. The value of this information can be immense.

Cambridge Analytica is a political data firm founded by Steve Bannon, a former senior adviser to President Donald Trump, and conservative donor Robert Mercer. The firm used Facebook data to identify users' political preferences and influence their behavior, according to The New York Times and The Observer of London.

That was one of many tools Bannon and others, including Russia, accessed to influence the 2016 U.S. presidential vote in Trump's favor. Whether the Trump campaign colluded with Russia is still under investigation, but there's no question that Facebook played a central role in manipulating American voters.

Facebook users were never advised that their data was harvested by Bannon. As Facebook acknowledged, this was not a data breach. Users willingly handed over their data to Facebook, which then handed it over to others without following up on how the data would be used.

Congress has every reason to demand answers from Zuckerberg about Facebook's role in subverting American democracy. But, ultimately, it'll be up to all who use Facebook and other social media apps to smarten up and stop being so generous with our personal information.

So the next time an ad pops up trying to sell you camping equipment right after you've posted about your camping vacation, that's the warning. Big Brother is watching.

(c)2018 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

A real recovery option for sexual abusers

By VIRGINIA HEFFERNAN
Los Angeles Times

Last Monday, James Levine, the longtime music director of the Metropolitan Opera in New York, was fired after the Met investigated his history of sexual abuse of young men, including teenagers. Levine sued the Met for $5.8 million for breach of contract and defamation.

Last Tuesday, a report surfaced that five women had accused the architect Richard Meier of groping, exhibitionism, assault and paying for silence. "While our recollections may differ," Meier said in a statement, "I sincerely apologize to anyone who was offended by my behavior."

Anyone who was offended.

In the months since the seismic expose of Harvey Weinstein, more than 120 high-profile men have been publicly accused of sexual misconduct, often with serious consequences. When they first get the news, many toss it off—or rage, lawyer up and sue.

One thing they don't do—lately, anyway—is admit to a psychosexual problem. Even those with brutal erotic practices have stopped confessing that they're sick puppies. Perhaps this is because Weinstein said he was an addict when he flamed out, an admission that did little to win back anyone's trust or money. He quit in-patient rehab after a week, and is now said to be on a recovery picaresque, sampling various therapies, including kale drinks and loud calls to his lawyers, as he roams the countryside.

Maybe it's best—for modern optics, anyway—for sex abusers to skip the invocations of personal demons and the medivac to a secluded clinic. There is no consensus, after all, about what "sex addiction" is, and many regard the phrase as a way to slip the knot of moral responsibility. Newsweek has called sex addiction "a condition that doesn't exist." The New York Times columnist Frank Bruni has identified in some of these men "an itch to identify some pathology, render a diagnosis, layer science onto sheer boorishness."

But if the last few months have shown us that victims have no handbook for coping with lechery, assault and extortion, we've also seen that leches, assailants and extorters don't have a handbook either.

Yet one does exist: a program of recovery that is less science than moral reckoning, less luxury clinic and more church cellar. The program uses the word "addict," but not in a 2018 sense; no brain science—nor science at all—is integral to the treatment. Instead, it's a spiritual program in which perpetrators confront their selfishness and cultivate ruthless honesty. They also create a searching inventory of what might be called sin, and make amends to those they harmed.

This is Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, which was founded in Boston in 1976 by a recovering alcoholic. He thought that the 12 steps that had helped him overcome alcoholism could also help him stop compulsive philandering. SLAA often serves as a punch line, and its meetings can easily be imagined as a pickup joint for the promiscuous. They're anything but that. Recovery in SLAA is not sexy: there's prayer and chores like floor-mopping that might be just the thing for a vain maestro or architect.

SLAA sometimes goes by a more dignified and evocative name: the Augustine Fellowship. St. Augustine of Hippo is rarely invoked in the context of #metoo, but maybe he ought to be: He was a man of restless sexual energy who in his famous "Confessions" copped to harming people for his sexual gratification. The story of Augustine's redemption—a dividend of his own moral commitments, as well as God's grace—is foundational to Protestantism.

Those in the Augustine Fellowship hardly let themselves off the hook for the sexual harms they've committed. Everything from harassment to infidelity to the wanton consumption of pornography goes on their inventories. Whether or not they believe in God, they commit to the 12 steps not to repair their reputations, but to save their souls.

Several men I respect have stopped compulsive and cruel sexual behavior in the Augustine Fellowship. Their recoveries are both arduous and admirable. For one of them, the strict policing of what the fellowship calls "people, places and things"—triggers—has continued for years. He avoids all pornography, red-light districts, and even roads with strip clubs along them.

His amends to the women he harmed have all included taking full, un-defensive responsibility for all the suffering he caused. No "our recollections may differ" here.

Such forthrightness requires humility. The Augustine Fellowship exists for abusers and others who can find humility in their humiliations.

It's a shame the SLAA program has been lumped in with tony rehabs, fake addiction science and tepid apologies as just another refuge of scoundrels. Feminists rightly say that victims don't need to learn self-defense; perpetrators need to learn "no raping." The Augustine Fellowship has been teaching no raping for 42 years—and evidently that simple lesson continues to come as news to men who sorely need it.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Will Congress spark a new Great Recession?

By ORSON AGUILAR
Progressive Media Project

Orson Aguilar is president of The Greenlining Institute. This column was written for the Progressive Media Project, affiliated with The Progressive *magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

Four years before the subprime mortgage meltdown devastated the U.S. economy, my organization warned Federal Reserve Board Chair Alan Greenspan that a deregulated financial sector was hurtling us toward disaster.

The New York Times, in recounting this 2004 meeting, noted that representatives of Greenlining Institute "implored Mr. Greenspan to use his bully pulpit and press for a voluntary code of conduct." He was not interested.

Astonishingly, similar warnings are being ignored all over again.

After the 2008 crash, Congress passed a series of reforms known as the Dodd-Frank Act. While many of us felt this law should have gone farther, it did put in place a series of commonsense protections designed to curb the "wild west" atmosphere on Wall Street.

In mid-March, the U.S. Senate acted to slash those protections, passing a financial deregulation bill known as S.2115, rightly derided by critics as the "Bank Lobbyist Act." Among other things, the bill would exempt some truly massive banks—up to $250 billion in assets, big enough to include American Express—from regulatory oversight designed to keep them from driving the economy into a ditch again.

The Senate passed the bill despite a warning from the Congressional Budget Office that it would increase the likelihood of a federal bank bailout and increase the budget deficit.

As in the Great Recession of 2008, the impacts of this policy would likely hit communities of color the hardest. A recent investigation by Reveal found that banks continue to practice illegal forms of race-based discrimination, a.k.a. redlining, in home mortgage lending. Obtaining home lending data is key to shining light on this bias, and hiding that data is exactly what the banks would prefer.

Because black, Latino and Asian American borrowers were specifically targeted by predatory subprime lenders, Congress beefed up reporting requirements under the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, to be effective this year. Increased public reporting of statistics like borrower credit scores, mortgage loan terms and the assessed points and fees would help regulators find patterns of discrimination and stop redlining.

But the Bank Lobbyist Act rolls back these new reporting requirements for banks and credit unions making under 500 home mortgage loans per year—even though lenders still must collect this information for their underwriting files. By allowing banks to hide data they're already collecting, the bill will make it harder to detect and prevent patterns of discrimination. Effectively, it's a Redliner's Bill of Rights.

Now that the Senate bill has passed with a bipartisan majority (16 Democrats joined all Republicans in voting "yes"), consideration moves to the House of Representatives. Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, chair of the House Financial Services Committee, has indicated he wants to combine the Senate bill with existing House legislation that's also regarded as dangerous by consumer advocates.

It's time to sound an alarm. We need to remember what caused the Great Recession, and let Congress know we'll be watching to see whether it proceeds with this mad experiment in bank deregulation.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Creating offshore MPAs

I recently read about the establishment of the marine protected area around Easter Island. It got me to thinking about our Micronesian marine protected areas. When was the last time there was a MPA created in Micronesia? Researching back, I think it was Palau in 2015. As you've heard from me before, I believe that marine protected areas are vital for the preservation and conservation of our oceans, so it's really great to see other island nations stepping up to protect their natural resources.

As islanders, we rely on the ocean, not only for food but as a vital part of our economy. Overfishing is destroying fish populations around the world, which in turn has far-reaching impacts. It is not just about the fish; it's about our people and our livelihoods. I often hear people speak of protected areas as being against fishermen, but it's really not. Marine protected areas are helping to ensure we will be able to fish for years to come. They are also creating the opportunity for our children and grandchildren to fish. If we are going to be fishermen, we need to have fish. We must look at the big picture and not just the immediate future. Marine protected areas help maintain healthy fish stocks and healthy reef systems, which in turn benefit fishermen, people living on islands, and businesses that rely on the ocean.

I am very curious about the design of the Palau MPA and how it's working for them now that it's been a little over two years since they passed their law. Their MPA covers 80 percent of their entire EEZ. There are pockets designated for nearshore sustenance fishing and a domestic commercial fishing zone near their capital. The Easter Island design is more traditional and covers an area of about 740,000 square kilometers (285,716 square miles), which is roughly the size of Chile's land area. With all of their marine protected areas together, Chile protects about 40-percent (?) of their country's EEZ. These MPA designs fit with what science is suggesting, which is that 30 percent of our ocean waters on the planet should be protected.

The MPA at Easter Island is a great example of local people and organizations coming together with a common goal. It took them five years of dedicated work, but the outcome will be healthy oceans for the future. I want to thank and congratulate the people of Easter Island on the efforts as stewards for the ocean and for setting such a strong example for other nations to follow. It is my wish for our people of the CNMI to look carefully at how we can follow the suggestion that science is telling us for creating offshore MPAs.

Ignacio V. "Ike" Cabrera
I Agag, Saipan

Our top political leaders are beginning to sound out-of-touch

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is a columnist for The Dallas Morning News. *Readers may email him at carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.*

For three of the nation's most prominent political figures, today is still yesterday. Two years later, they're still re-fighting the 2016 campaign.

President Donald Trump is constantly replaying—and exaggerating—his 2016 success, as if he needs to convince himself he really did win, and did so without the help that even some Republicans concede he got from Vladimir Putin.

Similarly, Hillary Clinton is still trying to explain why she lost what should have been a sure thing. She's blaming almost everyone but herself, especially the voters who spurned her, most recently in a speech in India that wasn't far enough away for many Democrats.

And Bernie Sanders is out on the campaign trail, still talking of mounting a political revolution. And he's still trying to stir up support for the same unrealistically expansive anti-establishment agenda that produced enthusiasm but insufficient votes to defeat Clinton for the 2016 Democratic nomination.

Their arguments may seem a bit shopworn in a country that inevitably prefers to focus more on the future than the past. That political predilection was shown again in last week's special Pennsylvania congressional election, where Democrat Conor Lamb's fresh face and low-key centrist campaign overcame the negativist Trump-style effort by a Republican who stylistically exemplified old-style politics (despite an impressive resume).

Of the three, Trump might have the best reason for a continuing fixation on 2016, given special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of his campaign's possible collusion with the Russians. Despite White House protestations, every week brings more information about connections between Trump business interests and Russian operatives and financiers.

The president has made clear he would like nothing better than for 2020 to become a replay of 2016 against Clinton. But that is probably the last thing most voters want, especially most Democrats, given their disdain for both combatants last time.

That was evident in the negative reaction to the former secretary of state's latest rendition of reasons for her defeat, in which she described Trump voters as backwards looking people who opposed rights for black people, jobs for women and success for Indian-Americans, a rendering reminiscent of her ill-conceived campaign rejoinder against his support from "the deplorables."

"I don't think that's the way you should talk about any voter, especially ones in my state," said Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri, a strong 2016 Clinton supporter. "I just think that's not helpful," added Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio.

Both are seeking re-election in states Trump carried by mirroring ex-Marine and ex-prosecutor Lamb's successful focus on bread-and-butter economic issues in a district Trump won by 20 points.

Sanders, meanwhile, continues to spotlight his efforts "to elect progressives in communities Democrats have long written off," though those places tend to prefer more moderate Democrats like Lamb, rather than those more liberal. While he always draws good crowds, the liberal candidates for whom the Vermont independent campaigned in last year's special congressional elections all lost, and he didn't campaign for the moderate ones who did best, like Lamb.

With a new book coming out right after November's midterm election signaling a likely second presidential bid, it remains to be seen if Sanders can regenerate his 2016 enthusiasm when his rival won't be Clinton, but some younger, fresher Democrats.

(The one exception may be former Vice President Joe Biden, who sounds like he wants to run, though he will turn 78 in 2020. Sanders will turn 79. More than age, history will be against him.)

The last five times Democrats regained the presidency from the Republicans, their candidates were fresh national faces: Franklin Roosevelt, John Kennedy, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama.

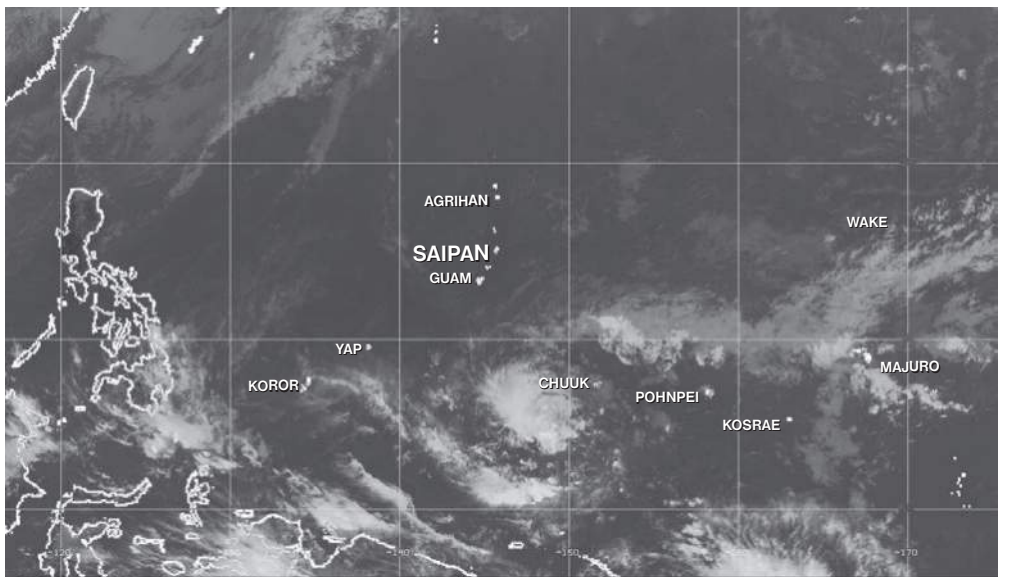
That is clearly the best 2020 prescription for them—and the biggest danger for Trump—though it's understandably unclear yet who that new face might be.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:00 AM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Not much change to the forecast at this time. Still fairly dry the next couple of days. Moisture increase on Friday. The latest ECMWF still wants to bring in some more showers, but the GFS is holding back, so will keep things the way they are for now. Then, early next week, as the tropical disturbance near Chuuk moves by to the south of Guam. Guidance has showers moving up from the south. Exactly how far north these showers get and when is hard to pinpoint due the model disagreement and inherent model error this far out. However, we could be looking at some scattered showers during the early week time frame.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	85° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Showers	85° / 77°
Chuuk	Showers	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Showers	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	72° / 61°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 30°
Hong Kong	Sunny	70° / 63°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	80° / 72°
London	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 43°
Los Angeles	Rain	64° / 54°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	82° / 66°
Miami	Sunny	73° / 58°
New York	Partly Cloudy	45° / 32°
Osaka	Rain	52° / 45°
Paris	Showers	48° / 37°
Busan	Sunny	63° / 46°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	52° / 34°
Salem	Sunny	62° / 39°
San Francisco	Rain	56° / 44°
Seoul	Sunny	54° / 36°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	57° / 43°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	46° / 30°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:51 AM	LOW TIDE	0.73
10:28 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.88
5:27 PM	LOW TIDE	0.05
11:57 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.72

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:20 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:17 AM	6:28 PM
Monday	6:17 AM	6:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:46 am	10:47 pm	-
Friday	10:36 am	11:46 pm	-
Saturday	11:31 am	-	-
Sunday	-	12:45 am	12:28 pm
Monday	-	1:44 am	1:28 pm

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Applications now accepted for $2B broadband auction

WASHINGTON—The Federal Communications Commission is now accepting applications from broadband providers of all kinds to participate in this summer's Connect America Fund Phase II reverse auction.

Areas in the Northern Mariana Islands that are eligible for support from the auction, along with the number of homes and businesses include Rota, with 83 sites; Tinian, with 21 sites; and Saipan, with two.

» Application window closes on March 30

Providers must submit their applications by March 30, when the application window closes. Providers can apply at auctions.fcc.gov.

The auction will make available up to $1.98 billion in support over the next decade to help build out high-speed internet access to up to 1 million homes and small businesses in rural areas across the country that lack service.

The auction will provide opportunities for new and existing providers using a variety of technologies to compete for support, including phone companies, fixed wireless providers, satellite providers, cable companies, and rural electric utilities. The auction is scheduled to begin on July 24.

For more information on the Connect America Fund Phase II auction, visit https://www.fcc.gov/connect-america-fund-phase-ii-auction. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School students from the fourth to sixth grade pose with their teachers and school officials after participating in the state round MathCourt competition last Feb. 17, at Mount Carmel School.

7 GMS students qualify in MathCourt state round

Seven Green Meadow School students from the fourth to sixth grade qualified in the state round MathCourt competition last Feb. 17, at Mount Carmel School.

John Edsel Hinolan and John Rayven Cruz from fourth grade; Chealzka Navarro, Solana Arro Hunter, and Jasmyne Tolentino from fifth grade, and sixth graders Areeza Gaile Anda and Danielle Nicole Sacramento will be competing again next month.

Each GMS participant's interest in mathematics and their eagerness to make their family proud paved the way for them to win in this competition.

Other winners in the K-2 Division and 3rd Grade are as follows:

K-2 DIVISION

■ 1st place, Jamie Andrea Palabay (Kinder5)

■ 1st place, Jaspaer Cabaobas, Ryoga Kaya, Neil Clarence Unay (1st grade)

■ 1st place, Alexia Rubia (2nd grade)

■ 2nd place, Paul Andrei Bernardo, Sofia Cariaso (1st grade)

■ 3rd place, Isabella Mallari (2nd grade)

■ 3rd place, Briell Malonzo, Avie Miguel Aumentado (1st grade)

■ 5th place, Kazzandra Drilon (1st grade)

■ 5th place, Jericho Hinolan (2nd grade)

3-5 DIVISION

■ 1st place, Yel Khalil Ocampo, Paula Bernardo (3rd grade)

■ 2nd place, Louise Manansala (3rd grade)

GMS Falcons place at thespian competition

Five middle school students of Green Meadow School made it to the top five in three different categories during the Junior Thespian Regional awarding held on Feb. 24, 2018, at Northern Marianas International School.

Areeza Anda finished fifth in monologue, while Jazmyn Phoeme Lopez and Leunyce Regalado placed fifth in duet acting. In duet musical, Honey June Satur and Elijah Umali also placed fifth.

Thirteen students from 6th and 7th grade qualified for this regional event and nine made it to the final rounds. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of Green Meadow School pose with their teachers after participating in the Junior Thespian regional awarding on Feb. 24, 2018, at Northern Marianas International School.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW18-IFB-013

AS-TEO ROAD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **As-Teo Road and Drainage Improvement**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **March 8, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **March 27, 2018**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **April 3, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho**, **Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW18-IFB-013"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:30 a.m. local time April 6, 2018.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:30 a.m. local time, April 6, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 6, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **April 17, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:30 a.m. local time, April 20, 2018.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m. local time, on April 6, 2018.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Two Hundred Ten (210) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

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Business

Trump tariffs set off industry scramble for tax exemptions

WASHINGTON (AP)—When Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross held up a can of Campbell's soup in a CNBC interview to make the case that the Trump administration's steel and aluminum tariffs were "no big deal," the canning industry begged to disagree—and they were hardly alone.

President Donald Trump's strong-armed trade policies have set off an intense scramble among industry groups, companies and foreign countries seeking exemptions from tariffs of 25 percent on steel imports and 10 percent on imported aluminum. The push comes ahead of an upcoming round of new penalties expected to be slapped on China by week's end.

The Can Manufacturers Institute, which represents 22,000 workers at manufacturers across the nation, estimates the steel and aluminum tariffs would harm their industry and consumers alike. The institute says there are 119 billion cans made in the U.S., meaning a 1 cent tariff would lead to a $1.1 billion tax on consumers and businesses.

"Secretary Ross has made cans a poster child to dispel concerns about the costs of tariffs," said Robert Budway, the institute's president. He said his organization was concerned Ross "is already predisposed to deny our petitions."

Trump's one-two punch on trade has set in motion a deluge of requests to the Commerce Department for exclusions for certain steel and aluminum products. Foreign countries, meanwhile, complain the U.S. Trade Representative's office has not provided specific guidance on gaining exemptions before the steel and aluminum tariffs are implemented on Friday.

"Typically, the countries are determined before tariffs are announced," said Josh Zive, senior principal at the law firm Bracewell LLP. This time, countries don't know whether they will end up being targeted or exempted—"that's weird and no one knows what to make of it."

The Trump administration, which has said steel and aluminum imports threaten U.S. national security, has already given Mexico and Canada a reprieve—provided they agree to a revamp of the North American Free Trade Agreement. The European Union, South Korea, Australia and Brazil are among the countries seeking the exemptions.

Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, said tariffs are "sometimes necessary tools" to protect national security or fight unfair trade practices. But he said the administration's approach is producing "chaos, uncertainty, and an alienation of our closest allies."

Emily Davis, a spokeswoman for U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, said the U.S "is engaged in discussions with several countries to determine if means other than tariffs can be arranged to address our national security concerns."

Companies that buy imported steel and aluminum can request tariff relief from the Commerce Department, especially if they rely on types of imported steel and aluminum that aren't available from domestic U.S. producers.

Expect a deluge: Steel and aluminum producers have 30 days to object to the exemption requests. Commerce expects 4,500 requests for relief and 1,500 objections—and it is supposed to reach decisions in 90 days.

Can self-driving cars withstand first fatality?

DETROIT (AP)—The deadly collision between an Uber autonomous vehicle and a pedestrian near Phoenix is bringing calls for tougher self-driving regulations, but advocates for a hands-off approach say big changes aren't needed.

Police in Tempe, Arizona, say the female pedestrian walked in front of the Uber SUV in the dark of night, and neither the automated system nor the human backup driver stopped in time. Local authorities haven't determined fault, and federal transportation authorities say they won't release any findings on the crash until their investigation is complete.

Current federal regulations have few requirements specifically for self-driving vehicles, leaving it for states to handle. Many, such as Arizona, Nevada and Michigan, cede key decisions to companies as they compete for investment that will come with the technology.

No matter whether police find Uber or the pedestrian at fault in the Sunday crash, many federal and state officials say their regulations are sufficient to keep people safe while allowing the potentially life-saving technology to grow. Others, however, argue the regulations don't go far enough.

"I don't think we need to jump to conclusions and make changes to our business," said Michigan State Sen. Jim Ananich, the minority leader. He and other Democrats joined Republicans to pass a bill last year that doesn't require human backup drivers and allows companies wide latitude to conduct tests.

Ananich called the death of 49-year-old Elaine Herzberg a tragedy and said companies need to continue refining their systems. "I want that work to happen here, because we have a 100-year history of making the best cars on the planet," he said. "It's not perfect by any means, and we are just going to have to keep working until it is."

Proponents of light regulations, including the Trump administration's Transportation Department, say the technology could reduce the 40,000 traffic deaths that happen annually in the U.S. The government says 94 percent of crashes are caused by human error that automated systems can reduce because they don't get drunk, sleepy or inattentive.

U.S. Rep. Bob Latta, R-Ohio, chairman of a House subcommittee that passed an autonomous vehicle bill, said the measure has sufficient provisions to ensure the cars operate safely. It requires the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to develop safety standards and allows the agency update outdated regulations. It also prohibits states from regulating autonomous driving systems to avoid a patchwork of rules, Latta said. The bill has passed the House. The Senate is considering a similar measure.

About 6,000 pedestrians were killed last year in crashes that involved cars driven by humans, he said. "What we want to do is see that stop or try to get it preventable," he said.

But safety advocates and others say companies are moving too quickly, and they fear others will die as road testing finds gaps that automated systems can't handle.

Nation

Authorities recover new clues after yet another Austin blast

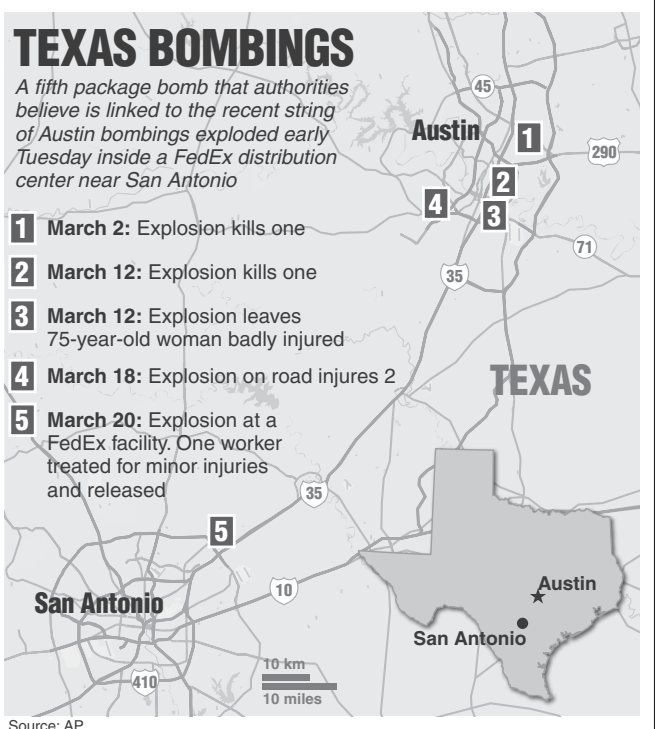
AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Investigators pursuing a suspected serial bomber in the Texas capital faced new threats along with the promise of valuable new leads as their attention shifted to a FedEx shipping center near San Antonio where a package exploded and the discovery of another, unexploded bomb near Austin's airport.

Even as they pored through surveillance video footage and collected evidence hoping to get closer to tracking down whoever is behind the series of blasts that have killed two people and seriously wounded four others, a Tuesday night scare caused them to respond to a Goodwill store in southern Austin. It turned out to be an unrelated explosion: Someone dropped off a device sometimes used in military training and it went off, injuring a worker.

Police said they don't believe it was the work of the bomber, or a copycat. They said such military items are occasionally donated to Goodwill instead of being properly disposed of.

Gary Davis, president and CEO of Goodwill Texas, said the device known as an artillery simulator detonated when an employee tried to handle it.

"In this town, if an incendiary device goes off, everybody just scatters and panics," Davis said as he stood outside a police barrier huddling with other employees. "We're all on edge."


TEXAS BOMBINGS
A fifth package bomb that authorities believe is linked to the recent string of Austin bombings exploded early Tuesday inside a FedEx distribution center near San Antonio
1 March 2: Explosion kills one
2 March 12: Explosion kills one
3 March 12: Explosion leaves 75-year-old woman badly injured
4 March 18: Explosion on road injures 2
5 March 20: Explosion at a FedEx facility. One worker treated for minor injuries and released
Austin
San Antonio
TEXAS
45
290
71
35
10
410
10 km
10 miles

Source: AP
Graphic: Tribune News Service

Even before the Goodwill scare, Tuesday had been a busy day. A bomb inside a package exploded around 1 a.m. as it passed along a conveyer belt at a FedEx shipping center in Schertz, northeast of San Antonio and about 60 miles (95 kilometers) southwest of Austin. One worker reported ringing in her ears and was treated at the scene.

Local and federal authorities confirmed that blast was related to four others since March 2.

Later in the morning, police sent a bomb squad to a FedEx facility outside the Austin airport to check on a suspicious package. Federal agencies and police later said that package had indeed contained an explosive that was successfully intercepted and that it, too, was tied to the other bombings.

Authorities also closed off an Austin-area FedEx store where they believe the bomb that exploded in Schertz was shipped. They roped off a large area around the shopping center in the enclave of Sunset Valley and were collecting evidence.

Evacuees leave hard-hit California towns as storm moves in

LOS ANGELES (AP)—When sheriff's deputies told Kristine Sperling and her family they should evacuate their Southern California home because of an approaching storm in January, they didn't listen.

Sperling thought she, her husband and their 11-year-old daughter would be perfectly safe. But the storm unleashed mudslides that inundated hundreds of homes in their community of Montecito and killed 21 people, including a dear family friend.

Now the Sperlings don't question evacuation orders. They just go.

"It's a matter of life and death," Sperling said from Santa Barbara, where her family was staying with good friends after evacuating Tuesday ahead of a powerful Pacific storm that's likely to be the worst this winter for parts of the state.

The storm, a so-called atmospheric river, began moving into central and southern parts of California on Tuesday, dropping rain as communities besieged by wildfires and mudslides braced for the worst.

The Sperlings' home wasn't damaged by January's mudslides but the family needed to be rescued after losing electricity, gas and water, and all the roads out of town were destroyed.

"We're just not willing to take that kind of chance anymore," the 48-year-old Sperling said. "What happened in January was just all of our worst nightmares."

Between a quarter and a third of an inch of rain (less than a centimeter) was recorded throughout San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties through Tuesday evening. Trace amounts had begun to fall in some parts of Los Angeles County.

The worst of the storm is expected between midday Wednesday through Thursday, bringing 2-5 inches (5-13 centimeters) of rain to coastal areas and valleys, and 5-10 inches (13-25 centimeters) in foothills and mountains.

"Everybody's clenched a bit waiting," said Kathy Hoxsie, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

Hoxsie said there's also potential for isolated thunderstorms, which can dump large amounts of water over short periods of time.

"That gets everybody more concerned," she said.

The Sperlings are among tens of thousands of people in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties who've been ordered to flee their homes as the storm approached. Los Angeles County authorities put thousands more on notice late Tuesday to be ready to evacuate from neighborhoods in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, which have also been badly hit by wildfires.

Asia

China, PH discuss joint South China Sea projects

BEIJING (AP)—Philippine Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano was in Beijing on Wednesday for talks on possible joint development projects in the South China Sea amid signs of an easing of tensions in the disputed waterway.

Cayetano was scheduled to meet with his counterpart Wang Yi later in the afternoon and on Friday with newly-appointed Vice President Wang Qishan, a close ally of President Xi Jinping.

China and the Philippines have long tussled over islands and reefs in the South China Sea and since taking office in 2013, Xi has taken a hard line on issues of Chinese sovereignty.

Kicking off his second five-year term on Tuesday, Xi declared in a fervently nationalistic address to the ceremonial legislature that China would never cede "one inch" of its territory.

China rejected an international tribunal's 2016 ruling invalidating much of its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea in a case brought by the Philippines.

Prior to his Tuesday departure, Cayetano said the sides would discuss "broad areas of collaboration," but gave no specifics, according to Philippine online news source Rappler. He said the territorial dispute would be discussed "in the context of how we can improve the situation," and that the sides were trying to find a legal framework acceptable to both that would allow joint exploration even as they continued to disagree.

Cayetano said talks would also touch on agricultural exports, investment in infrastructure and operations against Muslim extremists allied with the Islamic State group in the southern Philippines, Rappler reported.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterto has pushed for closer relations with Beijing, downplaying the dispute over territory claimed by both sides and courting Chinese aid and investment. For its part, China has eased pressure on Philippine fishermen and is working with the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to reach a code of conduct to avoid frictions while operating in the area where an estimated $5 trillion in international trade passes annually.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US official, Taiwanese president to speak at Taipei event

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A senior U.S. official will speak alongside Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen at an event in Taipei on Wednesday, just days after President Donald Trump signed a new law promoting exchanges between officials from the two sides that has drawn protests from Beijing. The appearance by State Department official Alex Wong was to follow an announcement by Taiwan's defense minister that China's sole operating aircraft, the Liaoning, had been spotting entering the Taiwan Strait separating the sides on Tuesday. Yen Teh-fa told a legislative hearing that Taiwan's armed forces were monitoring the situation but declined to give further details. The 60,000-ton craft commissioned in 2012 had been conducting military operations in the East China Sea over recent days, Yen said. The Liaoning has previously transited the heavily trafficked 160 kilometer- (100-mile) wide Taiwan Strait. Wong's visit to Taiwan was expected to draw further criticism from China, which claims the self-ruled island as its own and has sought to isolate it diplomatically.

Myanmar president, close Suu Kyi friend, says he's retiring

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's president, a close friend of the country's top leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, announced Wednesday that he is stepping down. A statement posted on the Myanmar President Office's Facebook page said that 71-year-old President Htin Kyaw was retiring from his duties. The statement said he wished to take a rest, and follows reports that he suffered ill health that forced him to take at least two trips abroad for medical care in the past year. The statement said his post would be filled within seven working days, in line with the constitution. Htin Kyaw became president in March 2016. He was Myanmar's first elected civilian president and head of its first government to be elected in free and fair polls since a 1962 military coup. After Htin Kyaw became president, Suu Kyi became Myanmar's de facto leader when she was named state councilor, a position created for the country's once-leading voice for democracy since she is constitutionally banned from the presidency. By mutual agreement, Htin Kyaw, acted as a proxy for Suu Kyi, who is also foreign minister.

Maldives former dictator, judges charged with terrorism

MALE, Maldives (AP)—Authorities charged the Maldives longtime former dictator and top judges and police officials with terrorism Tuesday as the government deals with political turmoil that prompted a weeks-long state of emergency. The nine people charged at the criminal court included Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, the 30-year ruler of the Indian Ocean archipelago state; Supreme Court Chief Justice Abdulla Saeed and Justice Ali Hameed; four lawmakers including Gayoom's son; and a former police commissioner. Prosecutors did not specify the grounds on which they are charged with terrorism. If convicted, they could be jailed for 10 to 15 years. All three also were charged with obstruction of justice on suspicion of refusing to hand over their phones to investigators. Saeed, Hameed and another judicial officer were charged with receiving bribes to help overthrow the government. Gayoom and the judges were arrested last month following a Supreme Court order to release several of President Yameen Abdul Gayoom's political opponents who were jailed after trials that involved alleged due-process violations.

Canadian drug mule says she made cocaine cruise a vacation

SYDNEY (AP)—A Canadian woman has told an Australian court that her only role in a plot to smuggle cocaine worth $16 million into Sydney was to make the luxury cruise ship operation look like a vacation. Three Canadians have pleaded guilty in the New South Wales state District Court to smuggling 95 kilograms (209 pounds) of the drug in their luggage in a seven-week cruise in 2016 from Britain to Ireland, the United States, Bermuda, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, Chile then Australia. Melina Roberge appeared in the court for a sentencing hearing on Wednesday. A date for the 24-year-old to be sentenced will be set next week. Isaballe Lagace has been sentenced to 7 years and 6 months in prison for her part and Andre Tamine will be sentenced in October.

World

Iraq holds more than 19K on Islamic State, militant links

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq has detained or imprisoned at least 19,000 people accused of connections to the Islamic State group or other terror-related offenses, and sentenced more than 3,000 of them to death, according to an analysis by The Associated Press.

AP

In this Oct. 3, 2017 file photo, displaced men from Hawija stand facing a wall in order not to see security officers, who will try to determine if they were associated with the Islamic State group, at a Kurdish screening center in Dibis, Iraq.

The mass incarceration and speed of guilty verdicts raise concerns over potential miscarriages of justice—and worries that jailed militants are recruiting within the general prison population to build new extremist networks.

The AP count is based partially on an analysis of a spreadsheet listing all 27,849 people imprisoned in Iraq as of late January, provided by an official who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. Thousands more also are believed to be held in detention by other bodies, including the Federal Police, military intelligence and Kurdish forces. Those exact figures could not be immediately obtained.

The AP determined that 8,861 of the prisoners listed in the spreadsheet were convicted of terrorism-related charges since the beginning of 2013—arrests overwhelmingly likely to be linked to the Islamic State group, according to an intelligence figure in Baghdad.

In addition, another 11,000 people currently are being detained by the intelligence branch of the Interior Ministry, undergoing interrogation or awaiting trial, a second intelligence official said. Both intelligence officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the press.

"There's been great overcrowding ... Iraq needs a large number of investigators and judges to resolve this issue," Fadhel al-Gharwari, a member of Iraqi's parliament-appointed human rights commission, told the AP.

Al-Gharwari said many legal proceedings have been delayed because the country lacks the resources to respond to the spike in incarcerations.

Large numbers of Iraqis were detained during the 2000s, when the U.S. and Iraqi governments were battling Sunni militants, including al-Qaida, and Shiite militias. In 2007, at the height of the fighting, the U.S. military held 25,000 detainees. The spreadsheet obtained by the AP showed that about 6,000 people arrested on terror charges before 2013 still are serving those sentences.

But the current wave of detentions has hit the Iraqi justice system much harder because past arrests were spread out over a much longer period and the largest numbers of detainees were held by the American military, with only a portion sent to Iraqi courts and the rest released.

Human Rights Watch warned in November that the broad use of terrorism laws meant those with minimal connections to the Islamic State group are caught up in prosecutions alongside those behind the worst abuses. The group estimated a similar number of detainees and prisoners—about 20,000 in all.

Israeli military confirms it hit Syrian nuclear site in 2007

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—The Israeli military confirmed Wednesday it carried out the 2007 airstrike in Syria that destroyed what was believed to be a nuclear reactor, lifting the veil of secrecy over one of its most daring and mysterious operations in recent memory.

Although Israel was widely believed to have been behind the Sept. 6, 2007, airstrike, it has never before commented publicly on it.

In a lengthy release, the military revealed that eight F-15 fighter jets carried out the top-secret airstrikes against the facility in the Deir el-Zour region, 450 kilometers (about 300 miles) northeast of Damascus, destroying a site that had been in development for years and was scheduled to go into operation at the end of that year.

Israel's involvement has been one of its most closely held secrets, and it was not immediately clear why Israel decided to go public now. The military would not comment on its reasoning, but the move could be related to the upcoming memoir of former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who ordered the strike and has hinted about it for years, or it could be meant as a warning to archenemy Iran, which is active in Syria.

Israel and Syria have always been bitter enemies. Throughout Syria's seven-year civil war, Israel has carried out well over 100 airstrikes, most believed to have been aimed at suspected weapons shipments destined for the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group. Both Iran and Hezbollah are allied with Syrian President Bashar Assad.

At the time of the 2007 strike, Syria accused Israel of invading its airspace, but gave no further details about the target.

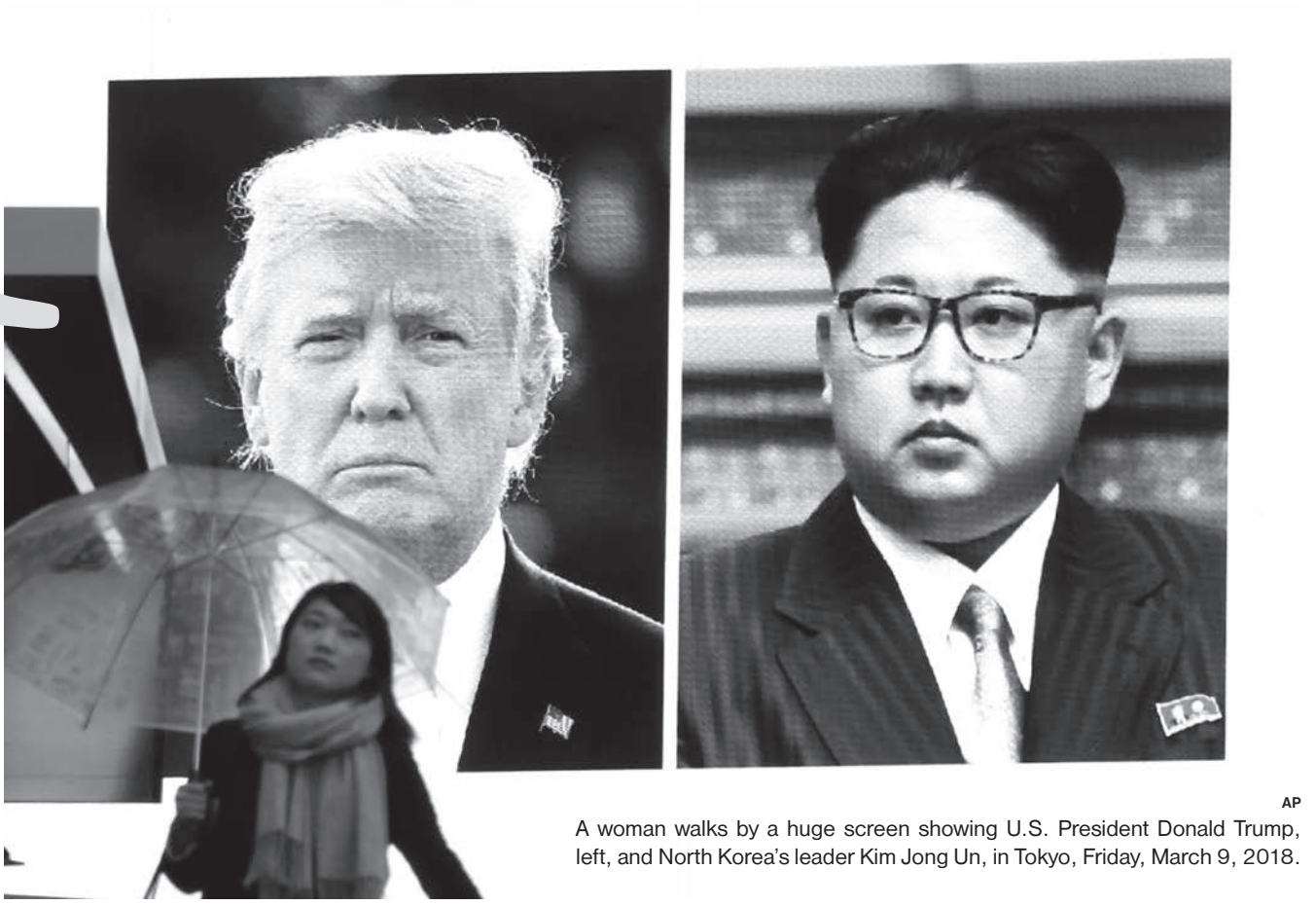
The pre-mission briefing, made public Wednesday, stated that the operation should not be attributed to Israel so as to minimize the potential for an all-out war. It was ordered to be kept secret until further notice.

The strike was reminiscent of an Israeli attack against a reactor that was under construction in Iraq in 1981. The strike was later credited with preventing Saddam Hussein from acquiring weapons of mass destruction that could have been used in the Gulf War a decade later.

Focus

From DMZ to ship at sea, Trump-Kim summit site rumors swirl

By ERIC TALMADGE
ASSOCIATED PRESS



AP
A woman walks by a huge screen showing U.S. President Donald Trump, left, and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un, in Tokyo, Friday, March 9, 2018.

TOKYO (AP)—With just weeks to go, there's still no official word on where President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will hold their unprecedented summit.

Will they pick an obvious place like one of their own capitals, or something off the wall, like a ship at sea? Or a place so obscure the curious will be sent frantically searching Google Earth?

There's no dearth of speculation.

Japan surrendered to end World War II on a ship, the USS *Missouri*. And Potsdam and Yalta are known among historians and locals more so than the rest of us. But like those places, the host city for a Trump-Kim summit could be etched indelibly in the pages of history.

Here are some places they might be eyeing.

IN THE DMZ

This is probably the most sensible choice.

Holding the summit in what is called the Joint Security Area inside the Demilitarized Zone that divides North and South Korea would check off some boxes for pragmatists.

It's spitting distance from the safety of Kim's own borders, so getting there (and getting out hastily, in a contingency) with a large entourage of bodyguards and other assorted personnel would be easier and cheaper. Kim is supposed to hold his summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in there in late April, before the Trump summit, so that could be something of a dress rehearsal.

But the location has some complicated optics.

It's a symbol of the division of Korea 70 years ago into the socialist North and the capitalist South. For Kim, whose regime doesn't recognize South Korea as a legitimate country, it would have the added symbolism of being where the North claims it forced the U.S. and its allies in the 1950-53 Korean War to essentially capitulate and sign an armistice agreement.

For Trump, going there could be used as a way of showing support for the U.S. troops who are stationed along the DMZ to defend against a Northern invasion. Trump has, however, suggested that the U.S. pays too much to keep its roughly 30,000 troops in the South, so that might be a bit ticklish.

PYONGYANG

Having a U.S. president come all the way to the North Korean capital would be the holy grail for Kim. He could play the host and spin the whole thing as Trump arriving, tail between his legs, to pay homage to Kim and his nuclear weapons.

That's why it almost certainly won't happen.

But Kim has cause to push hard for it. It's where his father, Kim Jong Il, held summit meetings with South Korean presidents in 2000 and 2007 and with Japan's prime minister in 2002, so there is a strong precedent. Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter traveled to Pyongyang after they left office. Clinton went in 2009 to bring back a couple of jailed American journalists and Carter actually went three times—he met with Kim Jong Un's grandfather amid high tensions in 1994 and returned in 2010 and 2011.

Trump appreciates big welcome ceremonies, such as those given on his trips to Saudi Arabia and Beijing last year. They had lots of pomp. And while it's probably too late for Kim Jong Un to treat Trump to a military parade, another thing the U.S. commander in chief says he enjoys, Kim is capable of throwing a lavish welcome.

Dennis Rodman might have some advice. The former NBA player, one of the only high-profile Americans to have visited the North in recent years, claims to have partied pretty hard with Kim.

WASHINGTON

Same downside as Pyongyang, but for Kim Jong Un this time.

It's a long way to go to essentially be seen as the one paying respects. It also raises big questions about security, which is understandably a major concern for Kim if he were to go to the heart of the country that he and his predecessors have seen as their mortal enemy.

Of course, Trump could throw in some sweeteners. He could reassure Kim that he would be afforded all the trappings of a world leader, which, again, would be a gift for North Korea's propaganda machine. But it would open up Trump, who as a candidate quipped he wouldn't pay for a state dinner with Kim but would be open to having hamburgers, to criticism from opponents at home and abroad.

As a reality TV-style publicity bombshell, Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort would seem to be both a longshot and a definite short-lister. Trump hosted both Japan's prime minister and China's president at the seaside club.

It's possible the idea of going to either would intrigue Kim. He hasn't done much traveling and perhaps he has a penchant for it. He has shown off a new jetliner that looks an awful lot like a smaller version of Air Force One.

But in the end it's a choice he could only make if he can somehow be absolutely sure it isn't seen as a sign of weakness or desperation.

If there is even a hint of either, he could find himself facing emboldened rivals when he goes home.

BEIJING

It's a third party, so that's a plus. Security wouldn't likely be a concern. And China, the frequent target of Trump tweetstorms, has been trying hard to show it is doing its best to rein in its neighbor's nuclear ambitions.

But relations between Beijing and Pyongyang have grown stormy lately.

North Korea's state-run media have called out China for blindly following Washington's lead on sanctions. China's recent tightening of its trade restrictions is causing considerable pain in Pyongyang. Kim's decision to sit down with the leaders of South Korea and the United States - not China or Russia - is itself a sign of the times.

From that perspective, it would seem unlikely Kim would want to give Beijing any credit for helping to make

See DMZ on Next Page

North Korean media say diplomacy is strength, not weakness

TOKYO (AP)—North Korea's recent moves to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula are evidence of its confidence and national strength, not a sign of weakness, according to its state-run media.

The North's defense of its diplomatic outreach to Seoul and Washington is surprising because its media have yet to report virtually any of the activity. Only U.S. and South Korean officials have said Kim Jong Un plans to meet with President Donald Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in by May.

The commentary by the Korean Central News Agency on Tuesday said the North's "proactive measure and peace-loving proposal" have created a "dramatic atmosphere for reconciliation has been created in relations between the North and the South of Korea and there has been a sign of change also in the DPRK-U.S. relations."

DPRK is short for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The commentary offered no other details, saying only that the North has started a "dialogue peace offensive." But it strongly criticized current and former officials and experts in the U.S. and Japan, along with conservatives in South Korea, for suggesting Pyongyang has been pushed into a corner by increasingly tough sanctions.

"The great change in the North-South relations is not an accidental one but a noble fruition made thanks to the DPRK's proactive measure, warm compatriotism and will for defending peace," the commentary said. "Such an event as today could be possible as the DPRK's dignity has remarkably risen and it has strong might."

Kim and Moon have made major steps to reduce tensions that reached dangerously high levels last year.

In an unprecedented gambit, Kim sent his younger sister to attend the opening ceremony of the Pyeongchang Olympics in South Korea last month and invited Moon to Pyongyang for what would be only the third North-South summit, following meetings in 2000 and 2007. The South Korean government was also key in brokering the plan for Kim and Trump to meet. Washington and Pyongyang have no diplomatic relations and no U.S. president has ever sat down with a North Korean leader.

Tuesday's KCNA commentary did not mention the North's nuclear weapons program, which Pyongyang often cites as the main source of its military strength. South Korean officials who met with Kim in Pyongyang to discuss the upcoming summits said he indicated he is willing to discuss denuclearization, but the lack of confirmation from Pyongyang has led to concern over what Kim may actually be willing to negotiate.

The commentary specifically denied claims North Korea made an about-face with no concessions from Washington because Trump's "maximum pressure" strategy had pushed it to the point beyond which it can no longer sustain itself.

It also lashed out at calls for sustained pressure on the North and skepticism that the activity is a ruse intended to merely gain time or drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington.

"The economy of the DPRK is rising," it claimed, adding that advances in science and technology around the country are "promising the bright future for the improvement of the people's living standard."

"The dialogue peace offensive of the DPRK is an expression of self-confidence as it has acquired everything it desires," it said.

The commentary called on all parties involved to act with "prudence, self-control and patience."

Environment

DNA in the water could help reveal where endangered manatees live

By JENNY STALETOVICH
MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI—As big as they are, Florida manatees aren't always so easy to find.

Aerial surveys used by the state to conduct annual counts have been criticized for sometimes under- or over-estimating the lumbering sea cows and rely on statistical calculations. The expensive flights can't always cover the vast network of canals, springs and coastline that manatees roam seasonally in search of warm water and food. Bad weather can ground them.

But now researchers have found something easier to locate: their DNA.

"It doesn't tell you necessarily how big the population is, but it detects the presence," said U.S. Geological Survey research geneticist Maggie Hunter, who helped developed a marker and was lead author on a paper published this month in the journal Endangered Species Research touting the method.

Like humans, animals shed hair, skin and other parts in the environment, leaving behind a trail of DNA. Tracking that environmental DNA has been used increasingly to find invasive species like Burmese pythons.

In 2015, Hunter and a team of researchers successfully confirmed python DNA in marshes where other efforts to locate the snakes had failed. And while Florida manatees are less difficult to find, getting accurate counts is critical to effectively managing the species. Last year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency downlisted their status to threatened from endangered — over objections from conservationists — in part because annual counts reported higher numbers.

But those counts sometimes rely on statistical models. For example, Hunter said counters who surveyed an area of the northern Gulf of Mexico detected no manatees even though her team found their DNA in the water. The DNA can be detected for two weeks to a month.

In addition to locating hard-to-reach places where manatees might congregate, the testing can also pinpoint travel corridors as they move about seasonally. Boat fatalities continue to be a leading cause of death. In 2017, 106 of the 538 fatalities were blamed on watercraft.

DNA testing could also help managers understand how Florida manatees may be expanding their range as rising global temperatures warm the oceans. Florida manatees increasingly have been found in the Florida Panhandle and father north into areas that are more remote or difficult to count.

"Our population has just been conditioned to be around humans. But when they move into the northern Gulf or off the Georgia coast, those animals are typically not quite as friendly," she said, making them harder to find.

Aerial surveys are also expensive and influenced by weather conditions and water visibility.

The method could also be used in places around the planet where manatees are scarcer and resources tighter. A subspecies in Cuba numbers about 100, but next to nothing is known about them. And in Brazil, dark water in the Amazon makes it nearly impossible to find them by air.

"It's very challenging to get into those places and it's very expensive to do any type of aerial survey," she said. "I'm working with someone from Brazil and she's worked there her whole life and never seen Amazonian manatees."

TNS

Manatees find refuge in the warm waters of Blue Spring located at Blue Spring State Park, Orange City, Fla., in a 2015 file image. Manatees, which recently were moved from the U.S. endangered list to the less dire status of threatened, appear on track to survive through the coming century, according to federal experts.

DMZ

From Page 18

the summit happen.

SWEDEN, FINLAND, SWITZERLAND

Neutrality is their advantage.

Sweden has an embassy in Pyongyang and represents the interests of the U.S., Canada and Australia. North Korea's foreign minister just flew to Stockholm for talks and met the prime minister, who hinted that Sweden would be a willing host. Sweden is also believed to be working behind the scenes to get North Korea to release three incarcerated Americans.

Releasing the Americans would be welcomed by Trump and a significant humanitarian breakthrough. So, host or not, Sweden's role is worth noting.

Finland's connection is a bit more tenuous. This week it is hosting semi-formal negotiations between current and former officials from the U.S., South Korea and North Korea. That meeting will likely be important for establishing summit expectations and possibly even agenda items.

Switzerland has been thrown into the speculative mix mainly because Kim lived there as a student and it is the very definition of a neutral country.

All have the drawback of being far from home for Kim, who will want to make sure nothing happens while he is away.

On the upside, Kim does like ski resorts. And maybe snowmobiling.

So, you never know.

Especially with these two leaders.

†ROY DIAZ RECHEBEI
AUGUST 23, 1974 – MARCH 11, 2018

A **Memorial Service** for
†Roy Diaz Rechebei
will be held at the
Borja Funeral Service
Divine Mercy Chapel,
Chalan Kanoa
Saturday, March 24, 2018
8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Si Yu'us Ma'åsi',
Kom Kmal Mesulang, Thank You

Ramon and Elizabeth D. Rechebei,
Rowena R. Camacho, and Family

Life & Style

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Twitter: 'Black Panther' is most tweeted about movie ever

NEW YORK (AP)—The pop culture sensation "Black Panther" has set another record: most tweeted about movie ever. Twitter said Tuesday that Ryan Coogler's box-office smash has been tweeted about more than 35 million times. That pushes it ahead of the previous record-holder, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens." The most recent "Star Wars" installment, "The Last Jedi," ranks third. Over the weekend, "Black Panther" became the first film since 2009's "Avatar" to top the box office in North America five straight weekends. It has grossed more than $607 million domestically and $1.2 billion worldwide. In the next week, it's expected to pass "The Avengers" as the highest grossing superhero film ever, not accounting for inflation. Twitter said "Black Panther" had the most tweets in the U.S., followed by the United Kingdom and Thailand.

SIR RINGO AP

The 77-year-old Ringo Starr received his long-awaited knighthood from Prince William Tuesday, a fitting honor for the former Beatles drummer, who has waited decades for the recognition. He used his real name Richard Starkey for the big event. It comes more than half a century after the youthful Beatles first went to Buckingham Palace to receive MBE awards. The other surviving Beatle, Paul McCartney, was knighted in 1997.

Spring-themed cake for Prince Harry, Meghan's spring wedding

LONDON (AP)—Lemon, elderflower, fresh flower decorations: The cake for Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's May wedding will be appropriately spring-themed. Kensington Palace said Tuesday the royal wedding cake will be a lemon elderflower concoction incorporating "the bright flavors of spring." It'll be covered with buttercream, and adorned with fresh flowers. Look for a hint of California too—the designated pastry chef Claire Ptak was raised in California and worked as a pastry chef under the celebrated Alice Waters at Chez Panisse in Berkeley. Ptak now runs Violet Bakery in London. The palace says the couple are "very much looking forward to sharing this cake" with guests at their May 19 nuptials. The guest list has not been released, and the designer of Markle's dress has so far been kept secret.

Renee Zellweger transforms into Judy Garland for film

LONDON (AP)—Renee Zellweger has transformed her looks and is working on her singing skills as she starts a new film about Judy Garland. Principal photography for "Judy" is underway in London, and the producers have released a photo of the Academy Award winner playing the troubled star. The movie is set in the late 1960s near the end of Garland's career and will feature the behind-the-scenes drama before Garland died in the city at age 47 in 1969. Zellweger is expected to sing in the film, including "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" from Garland's 1939 movie "The Wizard of Oz." Zellweger sang in the 2002 film "Chicago." Other cast members include Jessie Buckley, Finn Wittrock and Michael Gambon.

Fins up! Georgia Aquarium to create shark habitat in Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP)—The Georgia Aquarium has announced it's adding a new shark exhibit featuring a viewing gallery to give visitors a close-up view of the animals. It's set to open in 2020, and the aquarium says it wants to showcase the important role sharks serve in oceans. The aquarium made the announcement Tuesday. Plans call for the saltwater exhibit to feature floor-to-ceiling windows, and the aquarium says that potential species being considered include hammerheads, sand tiger sharks and sandbar sharks. The aquarium also announced that it will extend its main entrance out into a plaza area as part of its overall expansion plans. Construction is set to begin in April.

Google closes on $2.4 billion Chelsea Market purchase in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—Google Inc. has finalized the $2.4 billion purchase of New York City's Chelsea Market building. The management company Jamestown Properties announced the sale of the former Nabisco factory on Tuesday. The building is directly opposite Google's New York City headquarters in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood. Google has about 7,000 employees in New York, the most of any location outside of its Silicon Valley headquarters. Google vice president for real estate David Radcliffe says the Chelsea Market purchase "further solidifies" the company's commitment to New York. Google and Jamestown say they'll work together to ensure a smooth transition with minimal impact to tenants.

'The Crown' producers say sorry to stars after pay dispute

LONDON (AP)—Producers of the Netflix drama "The Crown" apologized Tuesday to actors Claire Foy and Matt Smith over the revelation that Foy was paid less than her male co-star. A producer disclosed last week that Foy, who starred as Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, was paid less than Smith, who played Prince Philip, because Smith was better known. The gender pay gap has become a big issue in Hollywood after revelations that many female stars were paid less than their male counterparts. Since news of "The Crown" pay gap broke, a petition has urged Smith to donate part of his salary to the Time's Up campaign, which is campaigning against sexism and sexual misconduct in the entertainment industry. Production company Left Bank Pictures said the actors "are not aware of who gets what and cannot be held personally responsible for the pay of their colleagues."

Wife left at home with the kids longs to socialize with adults

DEAR ABBY: My husband, Tom, and I have three kids: One is in college, the next is in grade school and the youngest is a baby. I'm a full-time medical student, and he's a professional athlete.

From the outside, it would seem like we have a perfect life. In reality, Tom does his own thing. He attends parties, goes to exciting social events and hobnobs with the rich and famous. I am left at home to manage all of our day-to-day responsibilities and socially restricted to family functions or kid sports.

I would like to be included in the invitations and attend some of the fun activities with my husband, but when I ask him if I can go, he says they are "work-related." So I end up staying home to care for our kids. He thinks I should be happy with this and says I don't understand his business responsibilities.

I'd really like the chance to interact with other adults with my husband, but I can't seem to get him to appreciate the importance of including me. If I make a big deal about it, he opts not to attend the event at all. I'm slightly suspicious of his behavior and offended. He's kind to me, a good provider and cares for our kids, but how can I get him to understand it's important for both of us to have fun together with other adults?

SPORTS WIFE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR SPORTS WIFE: A wife is supposed to be more than a baby machine, housekeeper and nanny. She's supposed to be her husband's partner. While I understand there may be some events the athletes attend without spouses, it would be interesting to know whether the other athletes' wives are being treated the way you are. Surely you know some of them. Talk to the ones you are closest with. Your husband may not have been entirely honest about why he insists on flying solo, so make it your business to do some checking.

DEAR ABBY: I'm the proud grandmother of an 18-month-old girl. My daughter is an attentive mother in every way except one. My concern is that she lets the baby play alone in the bathtub.

My husband and I recently celebrated my birthday at her house. When I asked where the baby was, another guest said, "She's playing in the bathtub." Sure enough, the baby was in the bathroom, in the bathtub, playing and swimming around in the water by herself. I was horrified! I can't imagine that times have changed this much or that it could ever be OK to leave a baby unattended in the bath, no matter their dexterity or ability to walk.

I spent the next day in a panic, sending my daughter stories, news articles and other information, trying to get across to her how dangerous this is, but she didn't want to hear it. Do you have some magic words for me?

GRANDMOTHER IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR GRANDMOTHER: Babies have been known to drown in as little as 2 inches of water. Your clueless daughter may not want to hear it, but what you have described is child endangerment. The magic words you are asking for are: "parenting classes." And if she still won't listen, some other good ones are: "Child Protective Services."

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

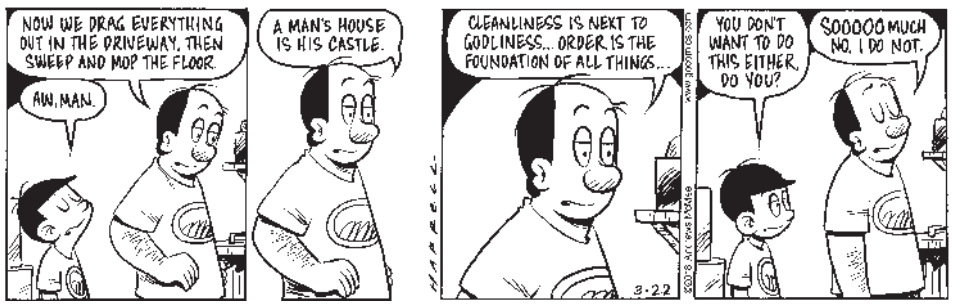
WE'RE ENDANGERED?
IT SAYS TIGERS NEARLY FACED EXTINCTION AND THEIR FUTURE REMAINS IN DOUBT.
THAT'S AWFUL.
I'LL SAY.
NO OFFENSE, BUT I THINK I'LL GO BACK TO BEING A KID AGAIN.
THIS EXPLAINS WHY I DON'T MEET MANY BABES.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

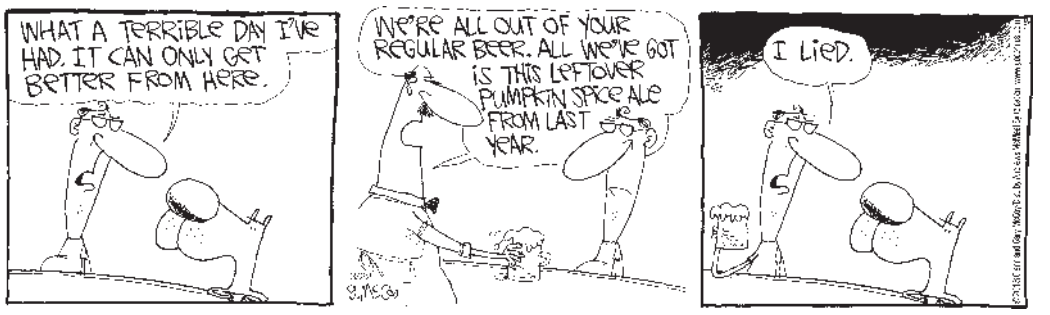
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


NOW WE DRAG EVERYTHING OUT IN THE DRIVEWAY, THEN SWEEP AND MOP THE FLOOR.
AW, MAN.
A MAN'S HOUSE IS HIS CASTLE.
CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS... ORDER IS THE FOUNDATION OF ALL THINGS...
YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS EITHER, DO YOU?
SOOOOO MUCH NO. I DO NOT.
3-22

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WHAT A TERRIBLE DAY I'VE HAD. IT CAN ONLY GET BETTER FROM HERE.
WE'RE ALL OUT OF YOUR REGULAR BEER. ALL WE'VE GOT IS THIS LEFTOVER PUMPKIN SPICE ALE FROM LAST YEAR.
I LIED.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Long for
5 Denny's rival
9 Chop
12 Miles away
13 Mediocre
14 Playwright Levin
15 Old Testament book
17 Huge
18 Small changes
19 Nutmeg or cinnamon
21 "Monopoly" square
22 Reckon
24 Give up
27 — Aviv
28 Battery fluid
31 Mouths (Lat.)
32 — bind
33 Alien craft
34 Rhett's last word
36 Convent manager
37 "Hey!"
38 World record?
40 Infinitive part
41 Japanese fish dish
43 Punctual
47 Business mag
48 Gladiator played by Kirk Douglas
51 Actress Lucy
52 Madcap
53 Hardy heroine
54 USN officers
55 Fearsome dino
56 "Beetle Bailey" dog

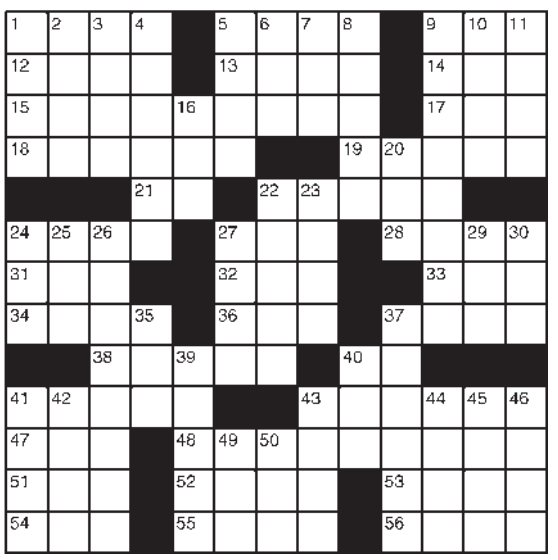
DOWN

1 Mr. Disney
2 Not many
3 Cathedral area
4 ER prioritization
5 Egyptian deity
6 Ad —
7 Buck-eyes' sch.
8 Sheriff's group
9 Tropical flower
10 Rocker Clapton
11 Carry on
16 Ring decision
20 Unpaid TV ad
22 Biological group
23 — Bator
24 Massachusetts cape
25 Mound stat
26 Syria's capital
27 Funny Fey
29 Conditions
30 Speck
35 Ultimate
37 Spud
39 Composer Franz
40 Potent stick
41 Ledge
42 Squad
43 African antelope
44 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
45 Has to
46 Canadian gas brand
49 Standard
50 Chemical suffix

Solution time: 24 mins.

M	E	S	H	■	E	S	P	■	O	L	I	O
A	L	A	I	■	S	I	R	■	C	A	R	B
L	A	C	R	O	S	S	E	■	A	C	A	I
■	N	S	A	N	E	■	S	E	R	E	N	E
■	■	■	M	E	N	■	S	T	I	R	■	■
O	A	L	■	S	C	I	■	S	N	A	R	E
■	M	A	C	■	E	L	D	■	A	T	C	M
L	C	C	H	S	■	L	E	S	■	C	D	U
■	■	Q	U	I	D	■	F	A	T	■	■	■
S	T	U	C	C	O	■	A	R	E	N	A	S
M	E	E	K	■	L	A	C	I	N	E	S	S
E	A	R	■	■	C	U	T	■	E	M	I	T
E	H	S	E	■	G	O	■	■	I	O	S	S

Yesterday's answer 3-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Reese Witherspoon, 42; Elvis Stojko, 46; Bob Costas, 66; William Shatner, 87.

Happy Birthday: Pick up the pace, zero in on what you want to do and move forward with finesse, goodwill and a positive attitude. Walk away from negativity and refuse to let anyone bring you down. It's important to remain forward-thinking and engage in the latest technology and options available to you. Personal improvements will shape what's yet to come. Your numbers are 4, 11, 22, 25, 34, 36, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Choose to follow your own path. If someone interferes, find a detour. It's important to trust and believe in who you are and what you can do instead of following someone who is gathering minions to do his or her dirty work. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Work on presentation and honing your skills to ensure that when you step up to do your thing you'll be equipped with what you need to influence those you are trying to persuade to see things your way. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Emotions will run high, and the need to be forthright about past dealings is now. Use your charm and swagger to convince others to see things your way, but do so honestly or your reputation will be jeopardized by what's revealed. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Not everyone will feel the same way you do. Keep your personal information a secret and question anyone who appears to be too interested in your life. Protect against theft, being misinterpreted or misrepresented. Speak on your own behalf. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Emotions and money matters won't mix well. Don't try to buy your way into something or brag in order to get someone's attention. Being a straight shooter will encourage others to step up and help out. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Your perception of a situation or a relationship will be skewed. Verify the information you receive and question how you came to conclusions. An honest assessment will help you avoid making a mistake that can cost you emotionally as well as financially. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* A heart-to-heart discussion will bring out issues that you may not have been made aware of in the past. Use the information you receive to negotiate a solution that will be difficult to turn down. Peace and compromise will bring good results. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A money matter will not add up. Don't leave your assets in someone else's care. History repeats itself, so don't give anyone the chance to fool you or take advantage of you more than once. Take care of your affairs personally. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Do what you can to help others and it will help you ward off criticism and complaints. Someone you work with or for will offer information that will help you improve the way you do your job or pursue future interests. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Listen but don't believe everything you hear. Someone will play mind games with you in hopes of influencing you to see things his or her way. Be on guard and ready to respond with facts. Do your own thing. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You'll begin to see things clearer as you explore new possibilities. Consider the changes you should make to help you incorporate a long-term plan into your current living arrangements. An opportunity to bring in extra cash is apparent. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You'll have to be careful when dealing with emotional matters. Someone's charm must not be allowed to overrule what's right and what isn't. Search for what works best for you, and avoid getting involved in someone else's problems. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, demonstrative and frank. You are persistent and impulsive.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3			7			1	
7			2				5	4
				4		3		
	1		6					
2		9				4		8
					2		7	
		5		2				
8	4				9			5
	9			8			6	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	5	9	7	2	6	8	3	1
6	1	3	5	8	9	2	7	4
2	7	8	4	1	3	6	9	5
8	6	5	3	4	1	7	2	9
7	3	1	6	9	2	4	5	8
9	2	4	8	5	7	3	1	6
1	8	2	9	7	4	5	6	3
5	9	6	2	3	8	1	4	7
3	4	7	1	6	5	9	8	2

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

LARRY ELLISON — Solution: 11 letters

Y	M	B	I	H	E	T	A	T	S	E	L	A	S	E
A	T	A	C	R	E	W	S	N	A	I	L	L	I	L
C	D	I	K	O	O	B	A	R	B	A	R	A	U	C
H	R	O	R	E	I	N	F	O	R	M	I	X	O	A
T	R	Y	P	A	M	I	M	R	I	B	Ⓣ	L	L	R
C	A	R	D	T	H	E	Y	A	U	O	O	Ⓔ	L	O
L	C	O	D	S	E	C	L	S	N	G	L	X	Ⓙ	L
I	E	T	A	N	O	D	I	A	A	A	I	U	E	E
X	I	S	R	X	A	N	F	A	N	C	P	S	C	X
A	U	A	A	U	E	L	E	U	C	I	I	E	N	P
M	D	O	W	S	S	P	S	D	Y	H	E	C	E	A
E	I	E	S	A	S	T	M	I	O	C	N	I	R	N
G	V	M	A	I	H	E	S	A	B	Y	S	V	W	D
A	A	A	W	E	A	L	T	H	Y	A	D	D	A	S
N	D	C	R	E	T	I	U	S	T	E	N	A	L	E

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Adda, Adopted, Advice, Ampex, Assets, Audi, Barbara, Book, Businessman, Cameo, Card, Charity, Chicago, Crews, David, Donate, Estate, Expands, Hawaii, Informix, Ironman, Island, Jet, Larry, Lawrence, Lexus, Life, Lillian, Louis, Make, Maxi, Megan, Melanie, Musashi, Nancy, NetSuite, Oracle, Pilot, Race, Rich, Rolex, Sales, Story, Sybase, Trust, Wealthy, Yacht

Yesterday's Answer: Ticket

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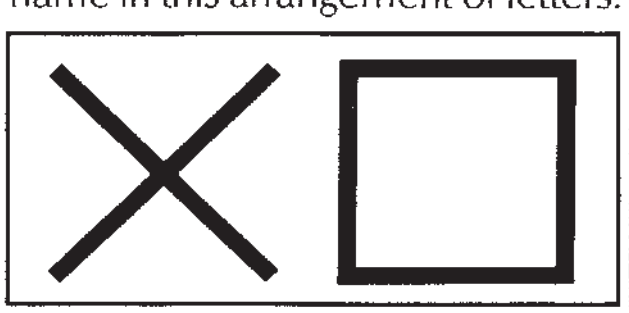

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JOB VANCANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Please send your resume with a copy of your diving instructor license, or your inquiry by e-mail or fax to:

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E-mail aqua@pticom.com
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Almost every job now held by an alien in Commonwealth will soon be available to qualified U.S. Citizen. Jobs currently held by foreign workers will require a new federal permit. The new federal transitional worker program will require employers to hire available qualified U.S. Citizen or green card holders before hiring or re-hiring alien transitional workers.

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Saipan MP 96950

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MERARCY T. DAYRIT Petitioner	]	FCD-PA CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0023
vs.	]	
ANTHONY BRANTLEY Respondent,	]	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 2821, Box 10002 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to he Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 8th day of February, 2018.

/s/_____
Deputy Clerk of Court

PC Bargain Corporation is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Administrative Assistant (1)
5 years experience in office administration, background in accounting is preferred. Must be able to work under time pressure and be able to have high skill in time management.

Sales Associate (3)
Must have an associate degree in college preferably in Business and Marketing Management with at least 5 year work relates experience in Sales and Marketing and in Credit and Collection.

Cellphone and Electronic Technician (1)
Minimum of 5 years experience in electronics and cellular phone repairs.

Cook (6) – Salut Restaurant
5 years of experience in kitchen operation with specialty in various Filipino and Japanese cuisine. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

Baker (2) – Salut Restaurant
5 years of experience in baking and preparing various deli selections. Must be able to work flexible hours as the need arises.

Barrista (1) – Salut Restaurant
5 years experience in bar tending. Must be knowledgeable in various beverage mixes, serving and preparation. Must be able to work flexible hours.

Farmer (2) – Salut Restaurant
5 years experience in Agriculture and Farming.

Applications can be submitted at PC Bargain Corporation located on the Ground Floor, Tun Kiku's Building at Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, March 23, 2018.

PC Bargain Corporation is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Docomo Pacific (Saipan), Inc. has openings for:

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Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree in Electronic or Electrical Engineering or Technology, or closely related field (may be foreign equivalent) and two (2) years experience as a Field or Engineering Technician or closely related job for telecommunications or cable company.
Duties: Install new premises wiring, disconnect drop line, de-install "wreck-out" of drop line systems, and re-connect previous customers. Install advance services such as high speed internet, Digital, and VOIP phone service. Troubleshoot and repair all problems occurring within the CATV drop system from the output of the distribution tap to all terminal points within a drop system. Understand the proper operation of customer premises equipment such as analog boxes, High speed internet modems and be able to educate customers on its proper use. Monitor for and document CATV leakage. Create CLI leak reports and repairs leakage as required. Lead crew as assigned. Repair sources of CATV leakage from distribution tap to CPE in customers home. Perform audit of questionable connections to distribution taps. Perform sales of new services or upgrades of existing customers. Maintain accurate records of daily tasks. Work safely and follow all OSHA, NEC, and company safety rules and procedures.

One (1) Bench Technician
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree in Electronic or Electrical Engineering or Technology, or closely related field (may be foreign equivalent) and two (2) years experience as a Bench Technician for a telecommunications or cable company. Solid interpersonal communications skills. Highly motivated individual.
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One (1) Fiber Technician
Minimum Qualifications: High school diploma (may be foreign educational equivalent) or GED; four (4) years experience as a Fiber or Maintenance Technician or Broadband Cable T.V. Technician for a telecommunications or cable company; must be able to operate Fusion Splicer and test fiber strands with an OTDR and other fiber test equipment; and must have knowledge of the Headend Wiring/Cabling Documentation and PathTrak Return Path Monitoring System.
Duties: Perform all tasks related to the Hybrid Fiber Coaxial System's operation and maintenance. Improves all aspects of the Headend for the HFC Operation and Maintenance. Operate Fusion Splicer. Test fiber strands with an OTDR and other fiber test equipment. Possess knowledge of Headend Wiring/Cabling Documentation. Perform troubleshooting of the Headend. Possess knowledge of PathTrak Return Path Monitoring System and Stealth Sweep System. Possess knowledge of FCC compliance testing. Must be able to operate a Spectrum Analyzer and MPEG Analyzer. Observe all OSHA, NEC, and company safety rules and procedures. Perform other related duties, as assigned.

One (1) Tech Zone Supervisor
Minimum Qualifications: High School Diploma or GED required (may be foreign educational equivalent) and two (2) years of experience as inventory support for telecommunications company. Ability to train and support to the techZONE team; research cellular handset/devices for software (OS) upgrades; repair and diagnose cellular devices, work to ensure the highest level of customer service and repairs.
Duties: Programming / Provisioning of all Handsets / Wireless devices utilizing knowledge of all Handsets / Wireless devices and its features and understanding of all applications / protocols required for handsets and wireless devices. Understanding all accessories and hardware for handsets and wireless devices. Diagnose or trouble shoot cellular devices. Repair cellular devices in a timely matter. Upgrading of software (os) of handsets. Assist business sales on issues of cellular devices. Assist team in exceeding repair and service times. Maintain a clean and well-organized work area. Maintain and process seedstock and parts as per SOP. Assist Manager in overseeing all aspects of techZONE operations. Prepare or assist in preparation of techZone staff and conduct and/or coordinate training for new and established staff. Prepare and manage service reports daily, weekly, and monthly. Maintain and manage inventory reports daily, weekly and monthly. Ensure customer issues are resolved in a timely manner. Present TechZone updates and reports to Senior Leadership Team.

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Spieth looking for spark at Dell Match Play

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Seven tournaments into the year, Jordan Spieth has two top 10s, two missed cuts and no serious chances at winning.

He also sees no reason to panic just yet.

Certainly not this week.

His stretch run to the Masters begins Wednesday with the Dell Technologies Match Play, and while Spieth has made it out of group play just once in three years of this format, it's the first time all year he won't have a scorecard in his hand.

It's about winning matches, not posting scores. That might be just what he needs.

"This match play could free me up a bit to play more aggressive and putt more aggressively, and it could be a trigger for a successful rest of the year," Spieth said. "That's what I'm looking forward to."

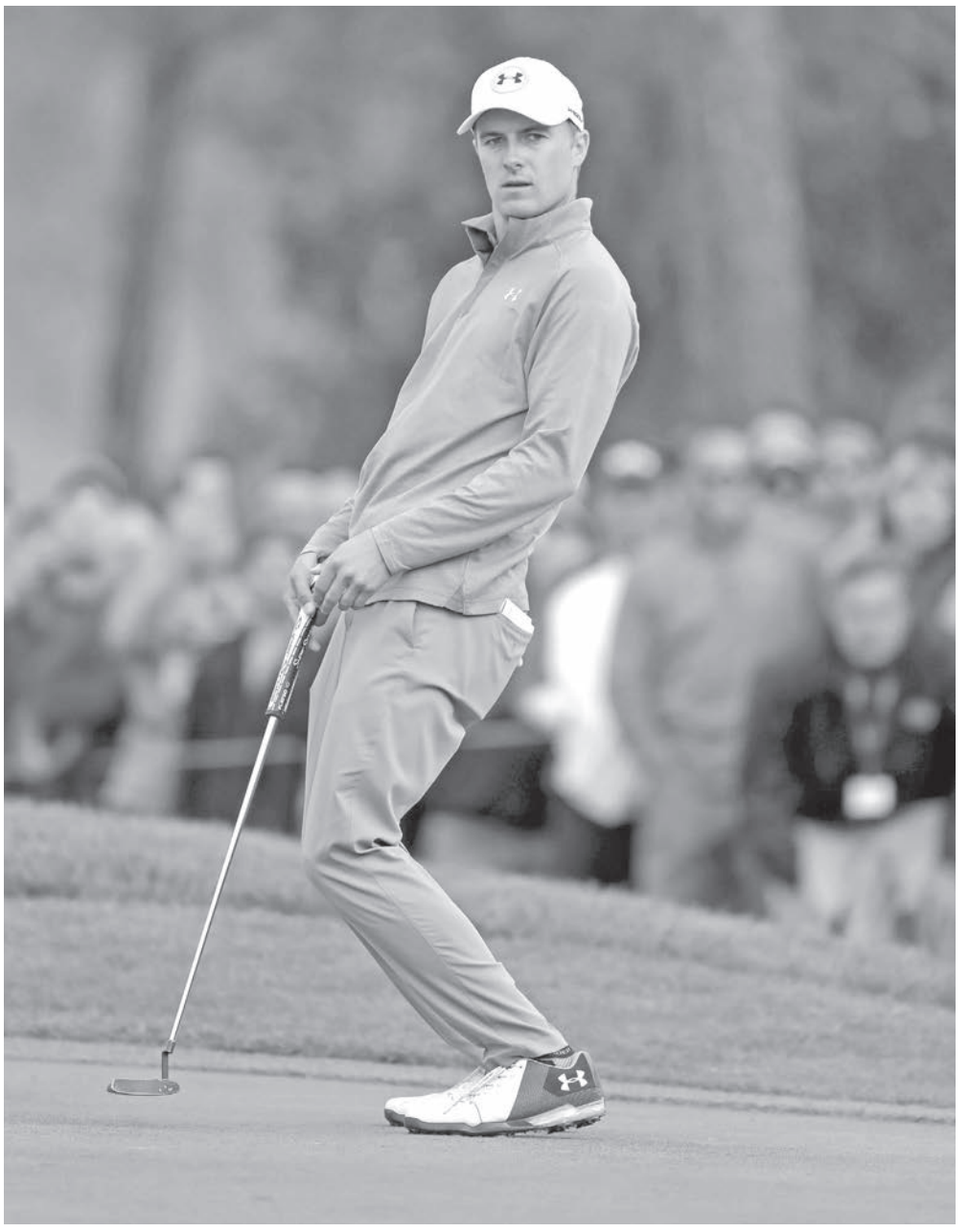
Spieth has spent most of the year watching everyone else win and build momentum toward Augusta National.

Dustin Johnson smoked the field at Kapalua to win by eight. Jon Rahm, Jason Day, Justin Thomas and yes, even Phil Mickelson, all won in playoffs. Rory McIlroy joined them last week with a flawless finish at Bay Hill to win the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

McIlroy had gone 18 months since his last victory, and on the Wednesday before the tournament began, he was looking ahead to the format at Match Play and said, "It can change your year."

It also can be a very short week.

Spieth has drawn former Masters champion Charl Schwartzel in the opening round Wednesday at Austin Country Club. More attention is on his final match of round-robin play on Friday when he faces Patrick Reed, an annoying figure for opponents in the Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup, and Spieth's partner in 11 cup matches.



AP

Jordan Spieth reacts after missing a putt on the 18th hole during the first round of the Valspar Championship golf tournament Thursday, March 8, 2018, in Palm Harbor, Fla.

The winner from each of the 16 groups advance to a weekend of single elimination.

Spieth has played plenty at Austin Country Club from his three semesters at the University of Texas, though that didn't help him much the first year when Louis Oosthuizen took him out in the fourth round.

He has the Match Play and the Houston Open before getting to the Masters, where he won in 2015 and was runner-up twice. Last year he tied for 11th, and he still was within two shots of the lead going into Sunday.

Twice he missed the cut before the Masters. Another year he won and had consecutive runner-up finishes.

Either way, the Masters has been good to him.

"I think going into Augusta, if you can generate momentum, whether it's a win or just strong finishes, you certainly step on the first tee there feeling a little bit better about it," he said. "I'm looking forward, I'm not looking back. I've got an opportunity this week and next week to generate that momentum."

McIlroy is upbeat for a couple of reasons. He won on the PGA Tour for the first time since September 2016, and he loves match play. Of the 64-man field, McIlroy has won the most matches (23) against the fewest losses (9).

He has reached the championship match twice—losing to Hunter Mahan in 2012, beating Gary Woodland in 2015—and the semifinals three times.

Does that make him the favorite?

Not really. Anything goes over 18 holes of match play, and that appeals to McIlroy.

"I've always liked this tournament because it's the least pressured event of the year, because anyone can beat anyone in 18 holes," McIlroy said. "The field is the top guys in the world. You don't have any easy matches."

He recalled 2011 at Dove Mountain in Arizona when his match against Ben Crane ended on the 11th hole—Crane won, 8 and 7.

AFC West champs Chiefs in midst of roster overhaul

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—They have a new quarterback and a new middle linebacker. They've released veterans, traded away one of the top cornerbacks in the league, signed wisely in free agency and loaded up on draft picks.

Sounds like a losing franchise trying to turn things around.

Try the two-time and defending AFC West champion Kansas City Chiefs.

The slew of offseason moves began even before free agency, when the Chiefs agreed to trades that sent quarterback Alex Smith to the Redskins and cornerback Marcus Peters to the Rams. But the pace of the dealing has hardly slowed down as the Chiefs remake an aging and expensive roster that was good enough to reach the playoffs last season but not good enough to beat Tennessee in the wild-card round.

That's why they signed wide receiver Sammy Watkins, cornerback David Amerson and middle linebacker Anthony Hitchens, and landed cornerback Kendall Fuller in the trade with Washington.

"We're not trying to win a Super Bowl four years from now. We're going out there and we're trying to win a Super Bowl next year," Chiefs general manager Brett Veach said. "Whether that happens, I don't know, but I know that we're going to do everything we can to put our team in position to do so."

Many teams coming off back-to-back division titles would try to hold on a little longer. And the result would be a slow regression that would ultimately force the team to begin a complete rebuilding job anyway.

Veach, who took over for John Dorsey last summer, took a refreshingly different tack. He went after the trade market, was decisive in his convictions and landed his biggest priorities, even if he may have had to pay a premium to get Watkins and Hitchens in the door.

It was a sign the candid, confident Veach is going to be a far different GM than his predecessors in Kansas City.

"If we have shortcomings," Veach said, "we'll continue to work on those things. Our mindset is at every period to get our team in a position to win a Super Bowl. We have a lot of talent here. It's a lot of young talent, which is exciting for the fans, but we realize there may be some growing pains. But we have some guys that can straight up play football, and that's exciting."

There is no doubt an abundance of talent, especially on offense.

Patrick Mahomes II is poised to take over for Smith under center, and he showed flashes of his big arm and gamesmanship in a Week 17 victory over Denver. To ease the transition, the Chiefs added Watkins to what is arguably the best set of skill-position players in the division, headlined by NFL rushing king Kareem Hunt, Pro Bowl tight end Travis Kelce and speedy wide receiver Tyreek Hill.

They also retained one of their own when they brought back bruising fullback Anthony Sherman.

"As a team, we've won a lot of games in the last few years," Mahomes said, "and we're bringing a lot of those guys back. And with the additions that we have added, I feel like we can have a very, very good offense. It's all going to start with how we prepare, especially at my position."

Yes, the Chiefs expected to have a very good offense, just as they did last season. But one of the big challenges this offseason has been to fix a defense that ranked among the worst in the league.

Hitchens was a good first step, and he'll step in to the void created by the release of the aging Derrick Johnson, the franchise's career tackles leader. Amerson and Fuller will help to cover the trade of Peters, and the draft picks netted this offseason will almost certainly be used on defense.

Still, the question remains: Is that enough to make an appreciable improvement?

"We've got a great nucleus coming back. We've added some players that are top-notch," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said last week. "We're fired up about this whole thing. I'm not great at standing up and going, `Hey, here we go!' But I'm ready to roll as we're sitting here in March."

Dodgers waiting to hear how long injured Turner will be out

CALIFORNIA (AP)—The Los Angeles Dodgers might've caught a break with Justin Turner's broken wrist.

The All-Star third baseman is expected to heal without surgery, manager Dave Roberts said Tuesday. No definitive word yet on how long Turner will be out.

Turner was injured Monday night when he was hit by a pitch from Oakland's Kendall Graveman. The NL champion Dodgers open the regular season a week from Thursday.

"It's just essentially time," Roberts said. "That's the initial thought. That could change, but that's what I've heard."

Turner had cast over his wrist when he arrived at camp in the morning. He was scheduled to see a hand specialist.

Turner hit .322 with 21 homers and 71 RBI last year. He had 14 RBI in the postseason, including seven against the Chicago Cubs in the NL Championship Series, when he and teammate Chris Taylor shared the MVP award.

The Dodgers appear ready to move Logan Forsythe from second base to third in Turner's absence and have Enrique Hernandez and Chase Utley share time at second.

Meanwhile, Boston lefty David Price threw five innings, giving up two runs and three hits. Manager Alex Cora said Chris Sale will start the opener, with Price pitching the next game at Tampa Bay.

Sam Travis hit his fifth homer and Rafael Devers homered for the third time. Pittsburgh starter Joe Musgrove was tagged for six runs and eight hits over four innings.

In other results, Washington ace Stephen Strasburg pitched 4 1/3 innings, allowing three runs and eight hits, including a homer by Lewis Brinson. Bryce Harper homered for the Nationals.

Adrian Gonzalez hit his first spring homer, and Wilmer Flores and Travis d'Arnaud also connected for New York. Starter Matt Harvey gave up a run and five hits over 5 1/3 innings. Marcell Ozuna doubled and singled for St. Louis.

Shorthanded Celtics end Thunder's win streak

BOSTON (AP)— The Celtics have spent most of the past month shorthanded, with several of their key players sidelined by injuries.

It didn't stop them from finding a way to stun one of the league's hottest teams.

Marcus Morris made a 3-pointer with 1.2 seconds left and the Boston shocked the Oklahoma City Thunder 100-99 on Tuesday night.

"Probably my biggest (shot)," Morris said. "I've hit a couple to tie it up. But was my first actual to win it."

Jayson Tatum led the Celtics with 23 points and 11 rebounds. Morris added 21 points as Boston snapped the Thunder's six-game win streak.

Russell Westbrook finished with 27 points, eight rebounds and seven assists for Oklahoma City, which fell apart in the closing minute.

Boston took an 82-81 lead in the fourth quarter on a 3-pointer by Shane Larkin, who finished with 17 points off the bench.

The Thunder missed 15 of their first 21 3-point attempts before making four straight to go back in front 93-89.

Boston closed to 99-97 on a 3 by Terry Rozier, and quickly fouled Carmelo Anthony with 7.7 seconds remaining. Anthony missed both attempts and the Celtics gathered the rebound.

Out of the timeout, Tatum dribbled across the lane and found Morris on the wing for the go-ahead 3.

"It was a tough shot," Paul George said. "We live with him taking that shot. He made it. Kudos to him for making big shots."

Westbrook was able to get off a long 3-pointer on the Thunder's final possession, but it came up short at the buzzer.

"We hit a couple of big shots there and kind of opened up the gap a little," Anthony said. "I missed those two free throws that could have easily sealed the game."

Tatum acknowledged that the game-winning play was actually the result of a busted play in which he missed an assignment.

But he was willing to take at least some credit, though. As Tatum walked past Morris as he was being interviewed by reporters he shouted, "It was a really ideal pass! But, great shot, though!"

Timberwolves 123, Clippers 109

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns racked up 30 points and 10 rebounds for his NBA-best 60th double-double and Andrew Wiggins scored 27 points in an all-around performance, leading Minnesota over Los Angeles.

Jeff Teague pitched in 20 points and 12 assists for the Timberwolves, who swept the four-game season series and sent the weary Clippers to their fourth consecutive loss on the commencement of a four-game, six-night trip.

Jamal Crawford scored 20 points and Taj Gibson had 15 points and eight rebounds as the Timberwolves pushed their lead over the Clippers (37-33) to three games. With five losses in their last seven games, the Wolves (41-31) had fallen into eighth place in the Western Conference.

Pistons 115, Suns 88

In Phoenix, Blake Griffin narrowly missed a triple-double and the Detroit Pistons celebrated the return of Reggie Jackson by handing the shorthanded Phoenix Suns their ninth straight loss.

Griffin led six Detroit players in double figures, finishing with 26 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds before sitting out most of the final quarter.

Jackson was back in the Detroit starting lineup after missing 24 games with a severe ankle sprain. He scored seven points on 3-of-7 shooting in 15 minutes.

Luke Kennard added 16 points and Ish Smith 13 for the Pistons.

The Suns were without their two leading scorers. Devin Booker missed his second straight game with a right hand sprain and T.J. Warren was out with left knee inflammation after being hurt late in Saturday night's loss to Golden State.

Alex Len led Phoenix with 19 points and 12 rebounds. Troy Daniels added 18 points, going 4 of 5 on 3-pointers, and Josh Jackson had 15 points and 11 boards for the Suns, who have lost 24 of 26 to run their NBA worst-record to 19-53.

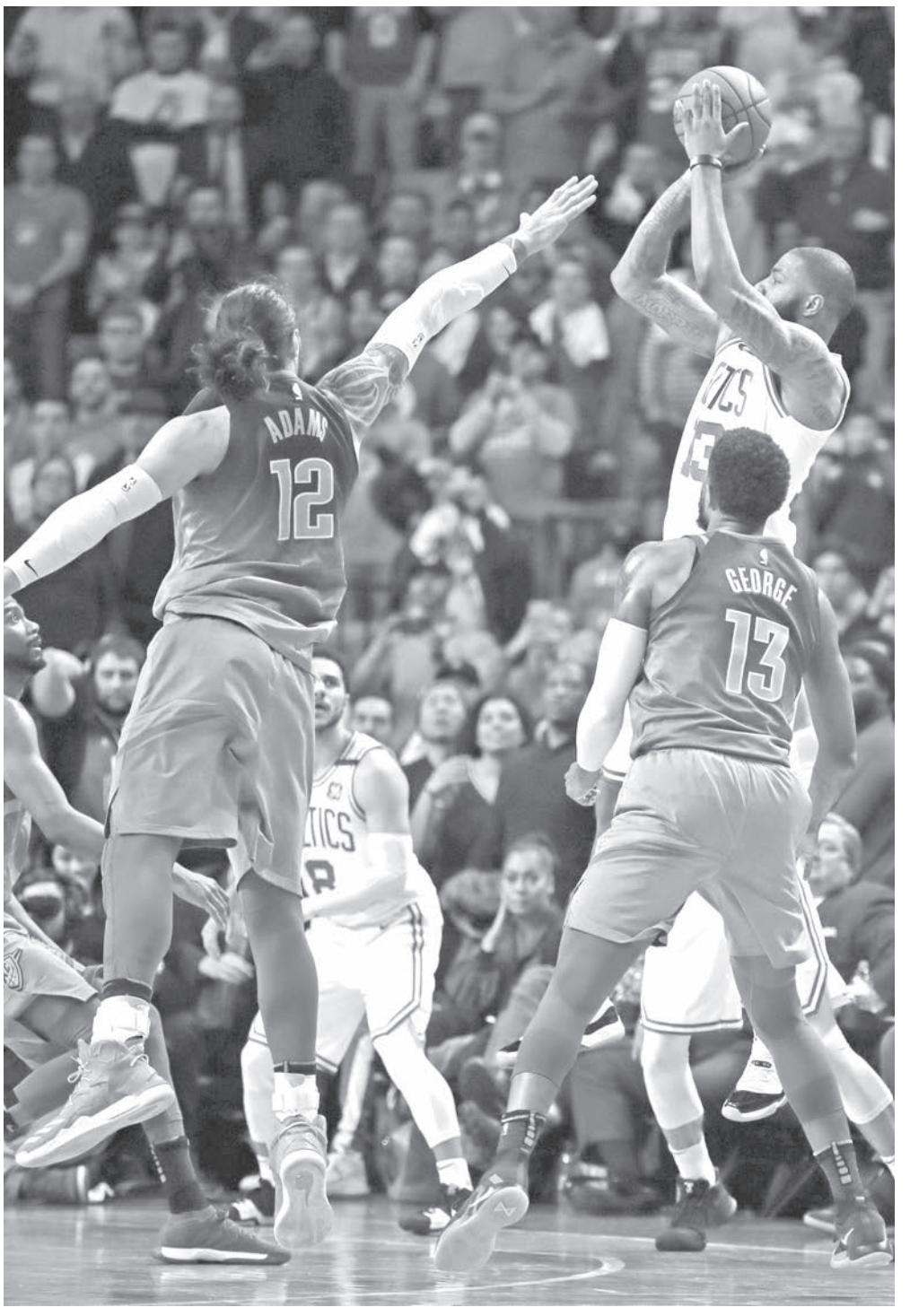
Detroit has won the last two after dropping the first three of a six-game road trip that ends Thursday night in Houston.

Hawks 99, Jazz 94

In Salt Lake City, Dennis Schroder scored a career-high 41 points, including 17 in the fourth quarter, and Atlanta stunned Utah.

Dewayne Dedmon had 15 points and 15 rebounds to help the Eastern Conference-worst Hawks snap their six-game losing skid and end Utah's winning streak at nine. Taurean Prince made four free throws in the final 11 seconds to clinch the victory.

The Jazz, who won 21 of 23 games in between losses to the Hawks, made their final field goal on Gobert's basket with 2:33 to play and missed their last five shots.



AP

Boston Celtics forward Marcus Morris, top right, puts up his game-winning 3-point shot over Oklahoma City Thunder center Steven Adams (12) and forward Paul George in an NBA basketball game in Boston, Tuesday, March 20, 2018. The Celtics won, 100-99.

Pelicans 115, Mavericks 105

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis scored 37 points, and New Orleans overcame the absence of second-leading scorer Jrue Holiday to beat struggling Dallas.

Rajon Rondo added 19 points and 14 assists, and Ian Clark also scored 19 points for the Pelicans, who are in a tight, seven-team race for one of the final five Western Conference playoff spots.

Davis made 15 of 21 shots, helped by Rondo setting him up for several easy baskets inside. New Orleans shot 52.7 percent (48 of 91) as a team.

Raptors 93, Magic 86

In Orlando, Kyle Lowry scored 25 points and Toronto used a strong fourth-quarter defensive effort to beat Orlando.

Toronto limited Orlando to 3-of-19 shooting (15.8 percent) in the fourth quarter, helping the Raptors overcome an eight-point deficit and win for the 12th time in their last 13 games. Serge Ibaka had 14 points and Deion Wright and Norman Powell had 10 apiece for Toronto.

Shelvin Mack led Orlando with 17 points. Aaron Gordon, returning after missing five games with a concussion, added 16 points.

Rockets 115, Blazers 111

In Portland, James Harden scored 42 points and the Houston Rockets snapped the Portland Trail Blazers' 13-game winning streak.

Portland's winning streak was tied for the second-longest in franchise history. The team also won 13 consecutive games in 2007.

Chris Paul added 22 points for the Rockets, who have won six straight and 23 of their last 24 and have the best record in the NBA.

Duke favored over Syracuse in Sweet 16

A pair of No. 11 seeds hope to continue Cinderella runs when March Madness resumes Thursday. That includes the Loyola-Chicago Ramblers, who take on No. 7 Nevada in their first Sweet 16 appearance since 1985 as narrow 1.5-point underdogs on the college basketball odds at sportsbooks monitored by OddsShark.com.

Loyola-Chicago needed last-second heroics to claim a 64-62 win over No. 6 Miami as 1.5-point underdogs in opening-round action and followed up with a 63-62 victory over third-seeded Tennessee as a 5-point underdog to extend its straight-up winning streak to 12 games going into Thursday night's Ramblers versus Wolf Pack betting matchup at Philips Arena.

The Ramblers are on an 11-1 SU run in games played away from home but sit near the bottom of the odds to win the NCAA Tournament at a distant +5000. However, the Wolf Pack have lost two of three outright when favored by three or fewer points.

The Syracuse Orange return to the Sweet 16 as a double-digit seed for the second time in three years when they face No. 2 Duke on Friday as 11.5-point underdogs.

Syracuse claimed a 60-56 First Four win over Arizona State as 1-point underdogs to earn the No. 11 seed in the Midwest Region, and buried the memory of a 5-7 SU stretch run with a pair of impressive opening weekend wins, capped by Sunday's 55-53 upset of No. 3 Michigan State as 10-point underdogs.

The Blue Devils dominated in a pair of opening weekend wins, claiming victory over No. 15 Iona and No. 7 Rhode Island by an average margin of 23.5 points to take over the top spot on the national championship odds as +325 favorites.

Duke topped Syracuse 60-44 as a 13.5-point home favorite in an Atlantic Coast Conference matchup Feb. 24. The Orange lag as distant +6600 underdogs on the March Madness futures but claimed outright victories as betting underdogs in their previous two meetings with the Blue Devils, including a 64-62 victory in Durham, N.C. in January 2016.

The Blue Devils' ascension to the top of the national championship odds has been aided by last weekend's stunning losses by the tournament's top seed Virginia, as well as early departures by the North Carolina Tar Heels, Cincinnati Bearcats and Xavier Musketeers.

The top-seeded Villanova Wildcats stormed to lopsided wins over No. 16 Radford and No. 9 Alabama in East Region action but remain stalled at the +450 odds that made them early tournament favorites. Those same opening weekend upsets have also lifted the Kentucky Wildcats and Gonzaga Bulldogs, who sit knotted at +700 on the title futures, followed by the Michigan Wolverines at +800 and the Kansas Jayhawks at +850, while West Virginia joins Purdue at +1600.

Pitchers deliver for GSM; Tenorio leads in batting

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Pitching is turning out to be one of GSM's top weapons in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League with its bullpen propelling the team on top of the standings based on the individual statistics compiled last week.

GSM' Kevin Kapileo, based on four or more innings pitched, found himself on top after two games in start. He has pitched 14 innings, allowing eight hits with no earned runs, while teammates Keoni Kaipat and Vince Cepeda are ranked third and eighth, respectively. Kapileo, early in the season, is also leading the league in strikeouts with 22 followed by the 19 of the Falcons' Frankie Lieto and the 18 of the Blue Jays' Noel Cabrera.

Kaipat, meanwhile, gave up a total of three hits in six innings pitched, while Cepeda was tagged with one earned run on three hits in the four innings he was on the mound for the unbeaten GSM (6-0) for a 1.75 ERA.

Franco Flores of the defending champion Aces came in at second place and was among the four pitchers that have zero ERAs, joining the company of Kapileo, Kaipat, and fourth placer Tindin Leon Guerrero of Titanium.

Flores, after two games and six innings on the mound, allowed five hits, while Leon Guerrero was tagged with five hits in four innings pitched.

Titanium's Jobi Reyes came in at fifth with a 0.70 ERA, while the Aces' Peter Tenorio and Frankie Norita of the Blue Jays are tied from sixth to seventh places with similar 1.40 ERA. The Blue Jays' Cabrera and the Aces' Joe Leon Guerrero are currently at ninth and 10th places, respectively.

In other categories, the Mariners' Pat Tenorio is the batting leader with a .611 average based on nine or more times at bat. The C.K. Bears' Angel Palacios (.600) is ranked second and followed by the Mariners' Shane Yamada (.588), GSM's Byron Kaipat (.563), and Titanium's Juan Tenorio (.545).

The Bears' Henry Lizama (.538), Titanium's Joe Palacios (.533), the Bears' Kiku Lizama (.529) and A.J. Lizama (.524), and the Falcons' A.J. Evangelista (.474) complete the Top 10 batting leaders.

GSM's Franco Nakamura and Lorenzo Sebaklim, after five weeks of play, are tied with the most runs scored with 13 each, while Byron Kaipat and Peter Lieto have 11 apiece, and Jerome Delos Santos and Kiku Lizama currently have nine each.

Lamarc Iguel has scored three doubles this season, while Delos Santos, Byron Kaipat, Jesus Iguel, and Mario Salas have earned two each. The Blue Jays' Kier Agda now has three triples, while Yamada and Kiku Lizama have two apiece.

Titanium's Brian Camacho hit the first home run of the season in their 11-17 loss to the Bears last Feb. 27, while A.J. Lizama had a homer of his own.

Franco Nakamura has 10 RBIs to lead Ian Norita and Virgil Serchamidal, who have eight each, while Pat Tenorio and Lamarc Iguel have seven apiece.

Largent is MGA's February Ace

David Largent booked his spot on Marianas Golf Association's year-end event after topping the club's February Ace of the Month Tournament held last Sunday at the Marianas Country Club.

The MGA vice president shot a gross score 76 and his six handicap gave him a net score of 70 for a three-shot win over Marco Peter. The runner-up finished with a 73 net as he recorded an 86 gross and had a 13 handicap. Largent now joins MGA president and 2017 overall champion J.J. Atalig on the list of early qualifiers for their group's season-ending Ace of Aces tournament.

Atalig was also the closest to the pin winner at No. 6 during last weekend's event, while Ned Norita and Largent duplicated the feat at Nos. 12 and 16. Nobody won at No. 8. Eleven MGA members braved the slight rain showers and windy conditions in the afternoon to join the February Ace.

Meanwhile, MGA will be announcing the date for its March tournament in the coming days.

Geri Dela Cruz (secretary), James Benavente (treasurer), and Calvin Yamagishi (tournament director) are the other MGA officers. The group has 30 active members made up of young, senior, rookies, veterans, men, and women CNMI residents who enjoy the game of golf.

For more information, call Yamagishi at 287-8894 or email MarianasGolf670@gmail.com or visit MGA's Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/MarianasGolfAssociation. ***(Jon Perez)***

TAGAMAN SUPPORTER
Marpac Inc. general manager Guy Pudney, third left, and Ambros Inc. marketing manager Jojo Camacho, right, join forces to support the 2018 Tagaman Triathlon, which will be held this Saturday. Joining Camacho and Pudney in the group photo are, from left, Jay Diyco, Triathlon Association of the CNMI director Manny Sitchon, TRAC president Ricky Castro, and TRAC director Jojo Valencia.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TANHOLDINGS

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Ensik Choi handed WPE its lone goal in the match.

Perez gave TanHoldings more breathing room with his second goal in the 65th minute, while Angeles hit back-to-back—76th and 83rd—to widen the cap before Joshua Deleon closed out for the winning team in the 86th.

In other results in the division, Okadaya got its first victory of the season, while the Teen Ayuyus and Paire played in a scoreless draw.

Okadaya made it to the win column after downing Kanoa, 3-1.

Yoshi Mafnas knocked in all the goals for Okadaya with his first goal registered in the 33rd minute and the last two in the 37th and 88th. Merrick Tover averted a shutout loss for Kanoa when he scored in the 39th minute.

DIVISION B
KFAS 5, Sun Palace 2

Korean Football Association kept its undefeated record (4-0-0) after beating Sun Palace in the first game at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Oliver Lee delivered a pair of goals for KFAS, while Banseok Kim, Jang Su Oh, and Edwim Kim contributed one each. Lee dropped his brace in the first half, while Banseok and Oh also hit the board in the opening 45 minutes of play for KFAS' 4-2 halftime edge. Guo Ha Hou and Feng Yu scored the two goals for Sun Palace, which fell at the bottom half of the team standings with its 1-1-2 card.

U16 WNT 3, Shirley's 2

The CNMI U16 Women's National Team (2-1-1) climbed up to a tie for second to third place in the team rankings after slipping past Shirley's (1-0-3).

Janelle Chognaki, Jimmy Tang, and Paulynn Joyce lit up the board for WNT in the 11th, 17th, and 51st minute, respectively. Jeralyn Castillo and Heng Guo Piao tallied the pair of goals for Shirley's with the former hitting her target in the 53rd and the latter in the 69th.

Matansa 5, PIC 2

Matansa also earned a 2-1-1 mark following its victory over cellar-dweller Pacific Islands Club (0-1-3).

Amzad Khan led Matansa to its second win of the season after recording a hat trick. He drilled back-to-back goals when he scored in the eight and 10th minute and gave Matansa a 2-1 advantage. PIC drew first blood, courtesy of Juanito Tiamzon's shot in the second minute. A Matansa own goal then handed the eventual winning team a 3-1 advantage at the break.

Another Tiamzon goal 14 minutes into the second half kept PIC in the game, 2-3, however Hamid Kawsar countered in the 70th to give Matansa more distance. Khan then completed his hat trick in the 76th minute to end PIC's hopes for a comeback.

VETS

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drove in Nakamura and Sebaklim, before the former was left stranded on first base after Delos Santos and Manny Sablan grounded out to end the inning with GSM holding on to a 5-4 lead.

The Indians got back in the driver's seat at 6-5 after Tudela, who walked, and E.J. Tenorio scored consecutively at the top of the fifth. However, that turned out to be the Indians' last taste of the lead, as L.J. Sebaklim relieved Flores on the mound and shut their opponents down.

GSM went on to score four more runs at the bottom of the fifth and added seven in the seventh and eighth to finish off the Indians.

Tomokane was perfect at the plate, 3-for-3, with a double and two runs, while Delos Santos went 3-for-5 with one run and an RBI double in the eighth. Diego Camacho had back-to-back RBI singles in his five plate appearances and hit 3-for-4 with three runs. Keoni Kaipat also drove in two runs on a 1-for-2 batting with one run scored, while Franco Nakamura went 4-for-6, two of which were bunt singles, and made three runs.

Flores tossed 4 and 1/3 innings and was tagged with one earned run on seven hits with four strikeouts and three walks, while L.J. Sebaklim pitched a one-hitter in 3 and 2/3 in relief, fanned two, and walked none.

Perry Celis and M.J. Sakisat surrendered 21 hits to GSM and combined for four strikeouts—three of which were made by the former—and five walks.

Atalig scored twice against GSM, while Sakisat, Celis, Tenorio, and Robert Tudela had one run each.

The Indians committed a total of 14 errors and GSM turned these miscues into three runs and used them to move into scoring position several times.

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Day 1, while the opening ceremony will take place this Saturday at 8:30am. Events lined up for Friday's session are 1,500m freestyle (11 and over age group), 200m breaststroke and 100m backstroke for 11 and over, and 100m freestyle, 50m backstroke, 100m butterfly, 50m breaststroke, and 200m freestyle relay for all ages.

On Day 2, there will be morning and afternoon sessions. For the first batch of events, swimmers will race in the 800m freestyle, 400m individual medley, 200m butterfly, 100m breaststroke, 50m butterfly, 400m freestyle, and 200m medley relay. In the afternoon session, the events set are 200m freestyle, 200m IM, 100m backstroke, 50m freestyle, and the 4x100m freestyle and 4x50m mixed team relay.

"Swimmers, parents, and coaches alike have worked very hard to put on a stellar meet. We are thankful to the teams that are coming to compete and hope they have a chance to take in the beauty of the island. This meet will feature many firsts and some lasts. For some swimmers this will be their first competitive swim meet and others it will be their last international meet before leaving for college. The public is welcome to come and cheer and support the teams. Admission is free," Winkfield said.

Meanwhile, after the races at Marpi pool, swimmers will head south to compete in the 39th SSC Ocean Swim that will be held in the lagoon behind Naked Fish in Susupe this Sunday. Registration is still open and SSC is encouraging Tagaman athletes to join the event that could serve as post race recovery swim. To register or for more information, send email to saipanswimclub@gmail.com.

NMIFA holds AFC Women's Football Day

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

More than 60 women of all ages gathered at the Hopwood Middle School Field yesterday to participate in the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association-organized AFC Women's Football Day.

The Dove-supported event, which according to Asian Football Confederation is designed to recognize, celebrate and promote the development of women's football, had mothers, their daughters, students, friends, and teamates enjoying fun activities and learning football skills.

Members of the CNMI Women's National Team training pool facilitated the activities, which included obstacle course, football drills, and scrimmages.

"It was fun and I enjoyed doing it," said Krizzy Cepeda, who came to the event with her mom.

Amy Quintos also joined the event with her daughter, Sophia, and said that the parents seemed to enjoy the activities more than their children.

"We, mothers are not always given the opportunity to do things like these so we're happy to be part of this event. We are able to spend time with our daughters and fellow mothers on the field," Quintos said.

Ladyvir Canape said with mothers taking interest in football and other events that promote health and wellness, it is easier for them to encourage their children to try sports, too.

"Mothers are role models to their children, so if we are active and are enjoying fun activities like these, we can convince our children to also get involved in sports. Plus, we're not getting younger anymore so we have to take care of ourselves by staying fit through participation in sports," Canape said.

Brinel Quitugua of Southern United Football Club said she joined the event because she loved playing in a non-competitive setting and spending time with her teammates without worrying about winning or losing.

Participants in the AFC Women's Football Day gather for a group photo yesterday at the Hopwood Middle School Field. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Young participants perform drills before picking up disc cones.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Facilitator Angie Ito watches participants do fun drills.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Players watch their teammate dribbles around the cones.

Players give instructions to their teammates who try to dribble around the cones. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A mother walks around the cone and gets instructions from her fellow moms. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Spieth looking for spark at Dell Match Play

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TanHoldings thumps WPE

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

TanHoldings Football Club pounded Winners & Pacific Eco, 6-1, in their Division A game in the 2018 Spring M-League last Sunday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Jershwin Angeles made a hat trick to power TanHoldings to the easy victory—the team's second in three games. With its 2-1-0 win-draw-loss mark, TanHoldings shadows idle MP United (3-0-0) and grabs the second spot from Paire (2-1-1). Okadaya (1-1-2), Teen Ayuyus (0-3-1), WPE (0-1-2), and Kanoa (0-1-2) complete the standings.

TanHoldings set up the lopsided win after going all out in the second half, which started with the squad ahead by only one behind the penalty shot of Sean Perez in the 12th minute. TanHoldings' second goal was also off a penalty with Angeles converting his kick in the 57th minute. Then a minute later,

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
TanHoldings Football Club's Jershwin Angeles, left, battles a Winners & Pacific Eco player for possession during the second half of their Division A game in the 2018 Spring M-League last Sunday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Palau swimmers pose for a photo after practicing at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool yesterday. The visiting swimmers will compete in the 2018 Saipan Swim Club International Meet this weekend.

Over 100 to join SSC international meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2018 Saipan Swim Club International Meet will be held this weekend with more than 100 swimmers from Saipan, Guam, Palau, and Pohnpei racing at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

SSC head coach Jacoby Winkfield said Guam will be represented in the March 23 to 24 competition by five clubs—Andersen Marlins, Typhoons Swim Club, Manhoben, Manukai, and Tsunami Guam. Typhoonz will have nine swimmers, Tsunami Guam has seven, while Andersen, Manhoben, and Manukai will field five, four, and three respectively.

Palau sent 12 and they arrived on Saipan yesterday, while Pohnpei is bringing in nine. Host SSC has the most entries in the two-day swim meet with 42, while Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan will have 34.

The tournament will start at 11:30am tomorrow with eight events scheduled on

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Vets power GSM past Indians

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Veterans Pete Tomokane and Jerome Delos Santos drove in three runs each to help GSM earn a 16-6 comeback win over the unlucky Indians in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Tomokane and Delos Santos, two of the most reliable hitters for GSM, also combined for 6-for-8 in batting to power GSM to its sixth win in as many games. With its perfect record, GSM is still on top of team standings in the 10-squad field.

It was another sorry loss for the Indians, their fifth consecutive, as they were leading, 4-1, after 3 1/2 innings, but failed to stop GSM's comeback bid at the bottom of the fourth.

Pat Alepuyo had a leadoff double at the bottom of the fourth inning and later scored on an RBI single by Diego Camacho, who advanced and reached home on three straight errors by the Indians—the last charged to catcher Robert Tudela.

Franco Nakamura, with one out after Indians pitcher Tony Flores fanned Tom Camacho, singled, while Lorenzo Sebaklim got on base on a fielding error by Richard Atalig at third base. A Tomokane single then

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
GSM manager A.J. Murig, standing right, and sponsor Mark Sablan, standing left, join their players for a group photo after the team's victory over the Falcons last week in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.